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RUC braced for more trouble today

Catholics riot after Orange marchers win

By NICHOLAS WATT, AUDREY MAGEE AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

NATIONALIST violence erupted throughout Northern Ireland last night after 1,300 Orangemen were allowed to march through a Roman Catholic area of Portadown, Co. Armagh, at the end of a tense five-day stand-off.

Hooded men hijacked cars and threw stones at police in republican areas of West Belfast, Londonderry and Armagh City within hours of the parade.

The disturbances, on a smaller scale than the loyalist violence earlier this week, came as nationalist leaders condemned the decision of the Royal Ulster Constabulary to allow the march to pass along the Catholic Garvaghy Road.

RUC officers and troops are bracing themselves for further trouble at today's 12th of July Orange parades across the province when more than 100,000 people take to the streets to commemorate the Battle of the Boyne of 1690. The most likely flashpoint is an Orange parade due to pass along the nationalist Lower Ormeau Road in South Belfast this morning. By last night the RUC had still not decided whether to re-route it.

John Bruen, the Irish Prime Minister, was expected to tell John Major of his dismay at the RUC decision to allow yesterday's march in a telephone call. Mr Bruen said: "The Government is gravely concerned. The abrupt reversal of the decision about the route of the Orange Parade is regretted."

John Hume, the leader of the SDLP, condemned the decision as "disgraceful" and Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, said that it would make it more difficult to convince the IRA to restore its ceasefire.

These criticisms came after police fired dozens of plastic bullets at nationalists who threw petrol bombs at the Orange march. Disturbances



An RUC officer fires in defence of the marchers

continued after the march with hooded men on the estate setting fire to a car and breaking up paving stones.

The march, from the small Drumcree parish church along the two-mile route into Portadown, set off just before 1.00pm — four days late — after Army Engineers had removed barbed wire. To the sound of a single drum beat the loyalists, dressed in dark suits and wearing orange collarettes, marched in silence along a lane from the church to the Garvaghy Road.

As they turned into the nationalist road, several hundred RUC officers, who had faced them across barbed wire since Sunday, protected them from the angry nationalist residents who shouted abuse. Scores of armoured-plated RUC Land Rovers lined the road where police in riot gear shielded the Orangemen.

Brendan MacDonagh, the chairman of the local residents' association, said that the reaction of the police

proved they were the military wing of unionism. "I think the day has proved that the RUC are not prepared to protect nationalists and are not prepared to take on loyalists."

A few minutes after the Orangemen had passed the Garvaghy estate, a band struck up Orange tunes as the march moved into the Protestant Woodside where thousands gave a rapturous reception.

David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionists and local MP, told constituents that the parade was forced along the Garvaghy Road after negotiations between nationalists and loyalists broke down. The two sides did not meet but church leaders had held all-night negotiations. There were hopes that the nationalists would let the loyalists march if a review body would examine future marches.

Sir Hugh Annesley, the RUC Chief Constable, said that he had reversed his original decision to re-route the march to prevent serious loyalist violence. He said: "After five days of deteriorating public disorder we faced a situation where tens of thousands of Orangemen were lining up against thousands of police and soldiers."

A security source said that loyalist terrorists were planning to launch attacks throughout the Province and the Ulster Volunteer Force was planning to break through the barbed wire.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said that the decision to stop the march was an operational one taken by Sir Hugh. Sir Patrick said: "I reject criticisms of the Chief Constable either in the decision that he took originally or, in the light of a changing balance of circumstances, the decision that he has taken today."

Price of marching, page 2



Lin Russell and her daughter Megan, who were bludgeoned to death in a wooded lane near their home in Kent

'Stay in' alert after Kent murders

By LIN JENKINS

WOMEN and children were told by police last night not to venture from home as they warned that the deranged murderer who bludgeoned a mother and daughter to death could kill again.

Lin Russell, 45, and her six-year-old daughter Megan, of Nonington, near Canterbury, died from multiple head injuries inflicted by a hammer in what police described as a "frenzied attack".

Josephine Russell, aged 9, remained seriously ill with multiple fractures to her skull and open head wounds after being left for dead alongside her mother and sister near the secluded bridge path where they walked home from Goodnestone Primary School through the Kent countryside.

"All I can say about this

tragic event is that the attack was frenzied. It is the work of somebody clearly deranged. I couldn't possibly speculate on his motives, who knows the human mind when it reaches such a state. It was utterly frenzied," Detective Chief Inspector David Stevens said.

"I do not want to instil panic in people. It is a lovely community. People have led peaceful lives up until now. We have a frenzied attack on two children and their mother. There is somebody dangerous in the area and until we catch him people cannot feel safe. Parents should not let children go out alone, or women go out in certain areas alone."

Post-mortem examinations by George Gibson, a Home Office pathologist, found that both mother and child had

suffered a rain of blows with a metallic instrument, almost certainly an oddly shaped hammer. Mrs Russell had been hit 15 or 16 times and Megan received only a few blows. Detectives believe Mrs Russell might have known the killer since none of them, nor the terrier dog Lucy who was also killed, appeared to have struggled or tried to run away.

Mr Stevens added: "This person would have been covered in blood, there is no question of that. Somebody must know who has committed this terrible crime. This person must have a propensity to do this again. We must catch this person."

Mr Stevens said Josephine, who saw her mother and sister killed, may never be able to reveal the vital information

that would lead to the killer. "Realistically, it may be unlikely that she is able to remember much, particularly suffering from such massive injuries. We have got to rely on other evidence."

Josephine's father, Dr Shaun Russell, 47, a lecturer in marine biology at the University of Kent, was last night still at her bedside.

Village of fear, page 5

Becket casket is saved for the nation

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE St Thomas a Becket chalice, bought at auction for £4.18 million last week, has been saved for the nation.

The Canadian millionaire Lord Thomson of Fleet and his family, who were confirmed yesterday to allow the National Heritage Memorial Fund to purchase the copper gilt reliquary chest.

Lord Rothschild, chairman of the fund, which was the underbidder at the Sotheby's sale last week, said: "We are delighted at the generous gesture Lord Thomson has made."

The casket will be given to the Victoria and Albert Museum, where it will go on display when the purchase is completed. An case awaiting it in the museum's Medieval Treasury yesterday carried a yellow notice: "In course of arrangement." Next year, it will be lent to Canterbury Cathedral.

Dr Alan Borg, the V&A's director, said yesterday that a shortfall of about £200,000 was being covered by the museum from its own funds. "We will continue to seek private funds to cover this amount and if these are not forthcoming, the balance will be drawn from the first income generated by the introduction of admission charges later this year," he said.

The National Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, who had stepped in to ensure that the casket could not be exported without a licence, said she was delighted.

Meanwhile, there was excitement among clergy at Hereford Cathedral yesterday who now believe a similar casket stored in the crypt may be as valuable.

Hereford casket, page 3
Leading article, page 19
Photograph, page 22

Suicide claim

Amshel Rothschild, the chairman of Rothschild Asset Management, committed suicide in a Paris hotel on Monday, according to police. Earlier reports said that he had died of a heart attack. Page 3

Perot enters race

Ross Perot, the Texas billionaire who challenged the established candidates in America's 1992 presidential election, shook up this year's White House race by announcing that he was likely to run again. Page 15

Council gets record £48m damages bill

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

A DISTRICT COUNCIL was ordered to pay £48 million in damages by the High Court yesterday, when Mr Justice May ruled that it had failed to provide essential information to a property developer.

The judgment presents Welwyn Hatfield Council in Hertfordshire with the biggest bill for damages ever awarded against a British authority, amounting to £533 for every resident. The council, which raises only £9.6 million a year in council tax, is to appeal, but is already making contingency plans to ensure that services are guaranteed.

"We do not have £50 million and we never will... but somehow we have to make sure that our services are not damaged," David Riddle, the chief executive, said last night. "I find it uncomfortable that a £2.5-billion property company with profits of £130 million in the past two years is pursuing a course of action which has serious consequences for a local community, especially when that company is now profiting from its development here,

which is being well patronised by the same community."

The court found that the council had lured Slough Estates into building a big shopping centre in 1987 by keeping to a basic change in planning rules secret. The rule change opened the way for a rival centre, of which the council was landlord, to rent space to the same sort of tenants as those Slough Estates wanted to acquire.

Slough told the court it would never have built the Howard Centre in Welwyn had it known that the council had altered the planning rules to help Galleries Centre, three miles away, to compete. Galleries has since gone bankrupt and the centre converted into factory shops. The Howard Centre is thriving, with letting at 97 per cent.

Sir Nigel Mobbs, chairman of Slough Estates, said the court ruling supported the company's argument that the council had deceived it. "This is the first local authority we have come across that has displayed this sort of behaviour," he added.



"They're not so much the Home Guard, more the Rented Accommodation Guard"

Backwoodsmen save the day

A passive turnout by hereditary peers last night helped John Major to avoid an embarrassing Lords defeat over plans to privatise Armed Forces housing.

The rarely seen backwoodsmen responded to Mr Major's eleven-hour appeal to defeat a rebel move to scupper Michael Portillo's sale of 60,000 service homes for £1.6 billion. It was the first time since the Maastricht Bill three years ago that Tory peers had been subjected to a three-line whip. Page 2

Pilots' strike off as union backs deal

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AIRWAYS pilots last night called off the strike which they had threatened from next Tuesday, saying that they could have wrecked thousands of summer holidays.

After three days of negotiations at a hotel near Heathrow both sides claimed to have reached a satisfactory settlement. The agreement will now be put to the 3,000 pilots and flight engineers in the pilots' union Balpa, with a recommendation that it be accepted.

Balpa said that it had managed to negotiate higher pay scales for short-haul flight crew based at Gatwick — the central issue in the dispute — improved pay for new pilots and the satisfactory resolution of a number of minor irritations which had persuaded 90 per cent of BA's pilots to vote in favour of a strike.

BA said that the deal was both fair to the pilots and to other employees of the airline who had accepted the pay deal of 3.6 per cent. The pilots had accepted an increase of up to ten per cent on top of the universal rise of 3.6 per cent in

return for a ten per cent increase in flying hours.

The size of the majority in favour of strike action among the pilots had surprised union leaders but in recent days a growing number had begun openly to question the wisdom of a strike. British Airways had decided to stand firm and had drawn up plans to mitigate any affect the strike would have had.

The BA board gave the go-ahead for whole EuroGatwick operation — short haul services operating from Gatwick airport and feeding passengers onto long haul routes — to be put up for sale had the strike gone ahead. The board also froze next April's staff bonus payment which was expected to exceed the £94 million paid this year and put on hold the purchase of new Boeing jets.

Pilots were convinced that it would have been impossible for the airline to operate more than a handful of flights had they gone on strike.

Valerie Grove, page 17
Leading article, page 19

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Value-for-money MPs flex intellectual muscles at 25p a minute

Why were Timothy West and Prunella Scales in the Strangers' Gallery yesterday? Prunella Scales (Sybil in *Fawlty Towers*) will have felt more at home than Timothy West, who has played Churchill. "Don't mention salaries" was the subject of the afternoon. But the rest of us could hardly keep our minds off the subject. This, after all, was Day 1 of our new super-remunerated value-for-money MP. Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes (C, Wimbledon), a

living demonstration, rose to offer an example of the fizz, the independent-mindedness, the sheer intellectual firepower which British voters are now able to purchase for their £43,000 a year. Did the Deputy Prime Minister agree, he asked, "that we in Britain have the finest Civil Service in the world?" Probing mercilessly, Dr Goodson-Wickes asked Mr Heseltine to commend the work civil servants do "to implement the Government's excellent policies". The rest was unintelligible.

A simple sum suggests that £43,000 a year for a 60-hour week is about 25p a minute. Dr Goodson-Wickes's question lasted 12 seconds. It was therefore a 5p question—a coin which, dropped in a gutter, some would hardly bother to pick up. You may think it realistically priced. After this sizzler of an inquiry, Dennis Canavan (Lab, Falkirk W) rose to commend "one of the greatest political leaders in history". Michael Heseltine looked up hopefully. But no, it was Nelson

Mandela of whom Canavan spoke. Mr Canavan hoped that Mandela's message of peace and love would find echoes in Northern Ireland too. You may think MPs had earned that extra £9,000 already. Still sceptical? Then get a load of John Gurnell (Lab, Leeds S & Morley) who, com-

mending President Mandela, probably meant to ask about the struggle against apartheid, but asked about "the struggle against anti-apartheid", provoking a ripple of consternation. Heseltine praised "one of the political giants of our time", modestly forbearing to mention the other. He also praised the achievement of

William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, in securing a £1.7 billion Korean investment in Wales. An interview by Petronella Wyatt in that morning's *Daily Telegraph* had been headlined "William Hague: I am more fun than I look". As Heseltine spoke of the Welsh Secretary's Lucky Goldstar triumph, I glanced at the balding young cornet and unexpected fun-seeker. Unwittingly he was running the tip of his tongue around his half-opened lips in an alarming gesture which in

less salubrious circumstances could invite criminal prosecution. Miss Wyatt and I may not have realised quite what fun Mr Hague can be. To earn his own £9,000 bonus, Labour's Deputy Leader, John Prescott, limped in (he has hurt his foot) to call the Government spivs. Tory backbenchers earned their bonus by shouting "disgraceful!" Sir Gerard Vaughan (C, Reading E) earned his by asking Mr Heseltine to wish Sir Edward Heath many happy returns for last Tuesday, the parlia-

mentary equivalent of a "Sorry we forgot your birthday" card. Questions to Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, had been more sombre. Sir Patrick warned us he must wear "the cloak of caution". He slipped it over the jacket of wariness, itself worn (with the tie of guardedness) over the shirt of circumspection and the vest of chariness, tucked into the trousers of prudence, over the underpants of discretion. There are days one marvels that Sir Patrick can even walk.

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

Tory peers rally to avert defeat on housing sale

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

A MASSIVE turnout by hereditary peers last night helped John Major to avoid an embarrassing defeat over plans to privatise Armed Forces housing.

The backwoodsmen, encouraged to visit Westminster for the Prime Minister's annual address to Tory peers, responded to Mr Major's eleventh-hour appeal to defeat a rebel move to scupper Michael Portillo's sell-off of 60,000 Services homes for £1.6 billion. It was the first time since the Maastricht Bill three years ago that Tory peers had been subjected to a three-line whip, the strongest appeal to attend.

Victory for the Government came in spite of a barrage of criticism from its own side over its "shoddy plans". Over 85 per cent of the speeches were deeply critical of the plan.

Mr Major, in his annual speech, told 180 Tory peers half an hour before the vote that they had to "stick together" to win the next election and that the sell-off had the backing of the chiefs of defence staff.

He also pointed to the huge hole in the Government's finances that would be left without the sale going ahead. The peers appeared, to have worked and the amendment was rejected by 256 to 176.

The Liberal Democrats said last night: "The Government only won the vote by making it a matter of confidence in the Government and dragging out all their backwoodsmen. This is quite a disgraceful way to behave with the homes of our Service families."

Labour peers were furious that the Tories could win the vote in spite of dozens of backbench Tory peers rebelling and the Liberal Demo-

crats and Labour turning out in force to support the wrecking amendment. They were also angry that many Tory Peers did not attend for most of the debate because they were listening to Mr Major's speech.

The Tory rebels were led by Baroness Park of Monmouth, who demanded that the proposed sale of the Ministry of Defence married quarters estate should be delayed until Parliament and Armed Forces families had been consulted. She said that the issue was of national rather than political importance and the defence of the nation was at stake.

"The Services feel punch drunk. They have taken so many cuts and have been asked to do the impossible so often," she said. "This is the last straw. Families feel threatened and anxious wives make anxious husbands. We are risking our country."

She said that the Chiefs of Staff's declared support for the sale was only under threat of alternative cuts.

Baroness Cox, another Tory Peer, said servicemen's families were prepared to make sacrifices for Service life but there was anger at the lack of consultation. She said they put up with long periods of single parenthood, the possibility of early widowhood and endless moves and made the sacrifices willingly.

The Labour Party said that it would try to force a vote on "this shabby deal" next week and the Tories could "no longer pretend to be the patriotic party". Dr David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, said: "Labour will now ensure time for a debate. The Tories have betrayed the armed forces and want to betray the taxpayer."



Garvaghy Road: RUC officer seizing one of about 300 nationalist protesters

Nationalist mood worsens as loyalist tempers abate

A BOIL has been lanced but Ulster's condition is still critical. The decision to allow Portadown's Orangemen to march their traditional route may have assuaged Unionist anger, but it has been at a price. Nationalist Northern Ireland is incensed.

One Sinn Féin activist in West Belfast commented: "People are seething with anger. This week a Catholic taxi driver has been killed. Catholics have been driven from their homes and after days of Orange terror the Unionists get what they want."

ANALYSIS

It leaves a bitter taste. Events in Portadown reinforce the republican view that the Unionists are indulged in their intransigence by the Government. They point to the Unionists' refusal to make progress in talks and their previous insistence on impossible conditions for Sinn Féin's entry to negotiations.

Discontent extends well beyond traditional republican enclaves. Mainstream nationalists feel the security forces who were welcomed only days ago as defenders in Garvaghy Road can no longer be trusted. One commented: "It's a cave-in, no good will come of it."

The change in nationalist mood ominously recalls the late Sixties when the Army arrived as the protectors of intimidated Roman Catholics but soon found themselves caught in the middle and then transformed into targets for nationalist anger.

Officially, Sinn Féin is calling for calm and its spokesmen are urging their supporters not to resort to civil disorder.

However, on the ground, it appears that republicans may be preparing for violence. It is suggested by sources close to security strategists that arms have been moved to potential flash points around Belfast in preparation for today's marches. Trouble is expected

in north Belfast, the Springfield Road area and, particularly, the Lower Ormeau Road in the south of the city.

Sinn Féin has co-ordinated opposition to marches in the Lower Ormeau as it has in Garvaghy Road. One former Loyalist paramilitary, himself adept at reading grass-roots feeling, believes Sinn Féin is playing a clever double game: "By stoking up feelings among Catholic residents Sinn Féin either get the credit for stopping the march or, if the RUC step in, they benefit from the resentment caused by repression."

Republicans feelings may be running high but Loyalist fears have not altogether subsided. One former paramilitary prisoner, Andy, from West Belfast, said: "If they hadn't let the marchers through Garvaghy Road then this street would have been alright tonight. Sure the marchers getting through gives you a wee lift but the trouble isn't over."

Loyalist leaders admit their ceasefire has been under strain. They fear inter-communal violence exacerbated by republicans may cause tattered nerves to snap. One commented: "We must not fall into the trap of destabilising our own society."

But as Ulster nervously celebrates what should be a carnival the fear of carnage remains.

MICHAEL GOVE

Blair allies stand aside for Harman

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR'S allies have agreed not to stand in the Shadow Cabinet election this month in a move that risks turning the poll into a farce.

Promising younger MPs who might have gained a seat for the first time have decided not to stay out of the contest in the hope of saving Harriet Harman's position.

Last night Mr Blair agreed to bring the elections forward from October to July 24. MPs will ratify the decision on Wednesday, when nominations will open until Monday July 22.

Brian Wilson, Hilary Armstrong, Alistair Darling and Dawn Primarolo, all front-benchers who narrowly missed being elected last October, will not seek nomination. The decision by the two

women in particular not to stand could boost Ms Harman's vote. But many MPs have already made clear that they wish to vent their anger at her decision to send her son to a grammar school.

The MPs denied having made any deal with Mr Blair, but party sources have suggested that the Labour leader wants the present Shadow Cabinet to be endorsed, and wants as little change as possible. "No one sensible will stand," one loyalist MP said.

This leaves Mr Blair with the maximum flexibility to appoint his own Cabinet if Labour wins power. He is supposed to keep the Shadow Cabinet as his first Cabinet, but he is widely expected to ignore this and appoint some newcomers.

Euro court rejects bus pass bias claim

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

THE Government won an unexpected victory in the field of European Union social policy yesterday when the European Court of Justice rejected a claim that the provision of bus passes for women pensioners at 60 did not breach EU law on sex discrimination.

The judges took the rare step of reversing the court's own preliminary opinion. In a politically far-reaching case today, the court is due to rule on the request from Britain for the immediate suspension of the EU ban on its beef exports, pending a later decision on the full BSE affair.

With the bus pass decision, the judges rejected an attempt by the European Commission to broaden the cover of the 1979 EU sex bias law to "social protection" as a whole.

The Government is fighting what it sees as a drive by the other EU states to extend more common social policy to Britain despite its opt-out from the social chapter at Maastricht.

Some senior Tories want the Government to defy the Luxembourg court if it rules against Britain. The court has already issued a preliminary opinion against Britain by its advocate-general, but yesterday's decision on pensioners suggested that the judges could accept the Government's arguments when they rule in September.

The bus case was brought by Stanley Atkins, now 68, from Telford, Shropshire. Five years ago, he began a legal battle claiming that the provision of passes to women at 60 discriminated against men. The High Court asked the European court to rule whether concessionary fare schemes fell within the scope of the EU directive on equal treatment of the sexes.

The judges decided that the transport benefit did not meet all the requirements involving health and social assistance to qualify for cover in that directive.

Post Office letter monopoly may go

The Government looks set to scrap the Post Office's letter monopoly after the Communications Workers' Union decided yesterday to mount a new series of strikes. Ministers will consider suspending the monopoly the Post Office enjoys on all mail priced under £1. Post Office managers fear that if the private sector is allowed to operate during the planned strikes, the Government is unlikely to bring the monopoly provision back.

The new action planned is a 24-hour strike from July 18 to 19, a 36-hour stoppage starting July 26, a 48-hour strike from July 31 to August 2 and a further 24-hour stoppage from August 6 to 7. John Roberts, chief executive of the Post Office, said the strike decision was "outrageous".

Colleges face new tests

Up to half of primary school teacher-training colleges are to be re-examined after concern that initial inspections costing £1 million masked "clear weaknesses", it was disclosed yesterday. More than 90 per cent of the work of teacher trainers has been judged as sound or better but Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said the revisits were in response to public and professional concern.

Prince on standards

The Prince of Wales yesterday condemned the assumption that poor performance at school could be excused by poverty, and said that failure at school led to "moral and cultural relativism". Speaking at a London awards ceremony for firms working with schools to help to raise children's achievement, the Prince called for a return to traditional teaching methods.

Birds win protection

Scores of development projects, including plans for Ipswich and Southampton docks, face tougher planning hurdles after the European Court of Justice ruled that the Government acted illegally in excluding an area of mudflats called Lappel Bank from the Medway Special Protection Area for Birds. The Government had excluded the bank from the area because of Sbeerness port's need to expand.

Pilot saves plane

A British pilot was praised by the Norwegian Air Force for landing one of its F16 fighters safely after ditching it at sea when fire broke out in the engine. Squadron Leader Ian McDonald Webb, 36, on a exchange posting, intended to ditch, but returned to base when a colleague told him the fire had gone out. "If he is representative of all your pilots, then they are pretty good," a spokesman said.

Hairy men 'are smarter'

Smart men have hairy chests, a psychiatrist claimed yesterday. There are more hirsute men among doctors and other university-educated professionals than among manual workers, according to the American study. Research among US medical students showed that some of the most intelligent men were those who had hair on their backs as well as their chests.

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HEAL'S



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Police say Rothschild choked himself to death

Reluctant banker 'depressed by business results'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE AND SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

AMSCHEL ROTHSCHILD, the chairman of Rothschild Asset Management and the man seen as future head of the banking dynasty, choked himself to death in a Paris hotel room on Monday, according to police.

Family members had initially reported that Mr Rothschild, 41, died of a heart attack, but police yesterday said that the young banker had committed suicide, using the belt from a dressing-gown.

Mr Rothschild's body was discovered by a hotel chambermaid in his room at the Hotel Bristol at 7.30pm on Monday. The maid had taken "tan towels to Mr Rothschild's room on the fourth floor of the hotel at 6pm. Mr Rothschild took the towels without speaking, hotel staff said yesterday, and immediately closed the door.

An hour and a half later the maid returned to room 401 to turn down the bed, and discovered Mr Rothschild's body in the bathroom. The towelling belt from a hotel dressing-gown was tied around his neck, with the other end attached to the towel-rail up the wall, according to hotel staff. He appeared to have killed himself by "jerking back suddenly", a hotel worker, who asked not to be identified,

said. Mr Rothschild was alone in the room. A routine investigation and post-mortem examination to establish the cause of death is under way in Paris. The case is being handled by the police of the Eighth Arrondissement.

The case has been classed as a suicide. There does not appear to be any suggestion of foul play, a police source said, adding that a judicial investigation might eventually take place "because of the importance of the deceased person".

Suicides who opt to kill themselves by hanging usually anchor the ligature to a high point such as a beam, but there are cases where people have killed themselves at a lower level, one coroner said yesterday. "People have died putting a tie round a door knob. The immediate reaction is you cannot die that way. But you can," the coroner said.

The suicide would jerk backwards or down and the noose tightens, bringing unconsciousness. The weight of the body increases the pressure and the victim dies.

There would have to be an inquest on a British subject brought back to Britain for burial. A coroner's court in England would have to be certain, beyond reasonable doubt, that the death was



Amschel Rothschild, keen on a number of sports, after winning a trophy driving a racing car at Silverstone

intentional and there was no other reasonable explanation.

Le Monde newspaper yesterday reported that Mr Rothschild had been depressed for some time by the results in his sphere of the family business.

The Hotel Bristol, where Mr Rothschild often stayed when in Paris, is owned by the Otter group and is a favoured meeting-place for British and American businessmen.

Mr Rothschild, who was also a director of the Sun Alliance Insurance group, had attended a business meeting and returned to his room late on Monday afternoon. He had been scheduled to meet other

Rothschild executives for dinner that night.

The secrecy that kept the nature of his death hidden for three days continued yesterday. Police declined to say whether a suicide note had been recovered, and the hotel management refused to comment on the death.

A rather reluctant banker, Mr Rothschild farmed in Suffolk, near Bury St Edmunds, until he joined N M Rothschild, the family bank, in 1987. His appointment as chairman of Rothschild Asset Management had led to speculation that he might succeed his second cousin, Sir Evelyn de

Rothschild, 64, as chairman of the family firm.

The death of Mr Rothschild leaves David de Rothschild, of the Paris branch of the bank, as the most likely successor to his cousin Sir Evelyn. Amschel's mother, Teresa Lady Rothschild, died in May. Amschel was second son of Victor Rothschild, and half-brother to Jacob, the fruit of his father's first marriage.

In 1992, Sir Evelyn told Le Monde, "If something happens to me, there is David. If something happens to him, there is Amschel, the youngest. Working within the family has always been our trade-

mark." David de Rothschild had expected to dine with Amschel on Monday night.

Mr Rothschild's wife, the former Anita Guinness, a member of the brewing family, returned from Paris on Wednesday after identifying her husband's body. They have three children, Kate, 13, Alice, 12, and James, 11.

It did not surprise Rothschild insiders that Amschel would be in Paris and there was no suggestion of a special meeting. "People are popping backwards and forwards to the Paris office all the time," an executive at N M Rothschild said.

Death rocks a dynasty rooted in past glory

BY JON ASHWORTH

WHISPER the name "Rothschild" and a dozen bustling images blaze in the mind. Magnificent wines and priceless works of art, mansions and racetracks, great wealth tinged with faded grandeur, and a feud of biblical proportions, cousin pitted against cousin. Now, a new poignant image comes to the House of Rothschild: the apparent suicide of a merchant banker.

The death of Amschel Rothschild at 41 will leave a scar on a family that prides itself on discretion and longevity. Amschel's father, Lord (Victor) Rothschild, lived to 79, in spite of a passion for Turkish cigarettes. Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, 64, current head of the English clan, and his estranged cousin, Lord (Jacob) Rothschild, 60, pursue their various interests with characteristic zeal.

The House of Rothschild grew from its late 18th-century roots in Frankfurt to become Europe's most powerful dynasty. Mayer Amschel Rothschild built up a lively trade in cloth, coins, and commodities, from his origins in the House of the Red Shield — or *Roi Schild* — and dispatched his sons to various European outposts. Nathan settled in London, Jakob in Paris, Salomon in Vienna, Kalmann in

Naples. One son, Amschel, remained in Frankfurt.

N.M. Rothschild, the merchant bank, was founded in 1810 and soon there was no limit to what the Rothschilds could achieve. Nathan helped the British to smuggle gold to Wellington's troops trapped in Portugal during the Napoleonic wars, shipping the bullion to France, where brother Jakob slipped it through the Pyrenees. Later they provided the money that enabled Britain to secure the Suez canal and bankrolled the empire-building exploits of Cecil Rhodes.

But by the early 1960s, the Rothschilds were seen as legends living off past glories. Hard taxes and soft living had taken their toll, although a concerted effort by the two main branches, in Paris and London, set the tone for renewed success.

The death of Amschel Rothschild could hasten the end of the merchant bank. "There is a question whether it is possible for families — like the Kleinworths or Barings or Rothschilds — to still control large international banks," a former Rothschild director said. "At N.M. Rothschild there is now a shortage of members of the family to put into senior positions."

Friends and family recall a man amused by life

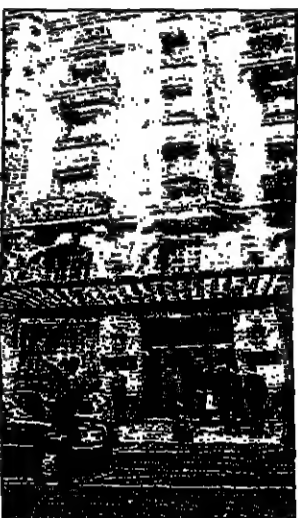
BY EMMA WILKINS

THE mysterious circumstances surrounding the death of Amschel Rothschild were met with grief and disbelief from friends and colleagues yesterday.

Martin Amis, the novelist, who was a friend for 20 years, said Mr Rothschild was a charming companion who did not suffer from depression. Mr Amis was due to attend a cricket match on Mr Rothschild's 1,500-acre Suffolk farm next weekend. He had hosted such matches for his friends twice a year for 15 years.

Mr Amis, who first met Mr Rothschild when they both worked on the now defunct *New Review* literary magazine, last saw his friend at a dinner party a few weeks ago. "Amschel was very droll and charming and relaxed as ever. I always believed that his view on life was to be amused by it," he said.

Mr Rothschild and his wife, Anita, had a strong marriage, according to Mr Amis. The couple, who had been married for 15 years, have three children, Kate, 13,



The Bristol Hotel where Mr Rothschild died

Alice, 12, and James, 11. Mr Amis said: "Anita is very forthright, straight and candid person. He had a great wife and children. I just can't think of any reason why Amschel would want to take his own life."

Mrs Rothschild, 38, issued a statement yesterday through her sister, Miranda Guinness, which said: "We are completely

shocked and devastated. Amschel's death was completely unexpected. We would rather say no more and would ask that everyone will respect the grief and deep sadness of our three young children and myself."

Miriam Rothschild, the biologist and Mr Rothschild's aunt, spoke of her shock and dismissed suggestions that he was depressed about his job in the City.

"He got on extremely well at Rothschild and loved his job. To say anything else is just nonsense," she added. "He was a charming and intelligent individual who was never depressed. He wasn't shy, but he was a quiet person."

David Sullivan, a non-executive director of N.M. Rothschild, said Mr Rothschild was in Paris for a routine business meeting as director of Rothschild Asset Management.

Mr Sullivan declined to comment on speculation that Mr Rothschild may have been depressed about the disappointing performance of the firm. It made £500,000 losses in the year to March 1995, a turnaround from profits of £3.6 million a year earlier.

Cathedral claims to have second casket

BY ROBIN YOUNG

PUBLICITY surrounding the Becket chase has excited clerics in Hereford — they think they have one too.

Clergy at Hereford Cathedral knew there was a similar relic stored in their crypt, but did not realise its potential value until the Becket casket fetched £4.18 million at Sotheby's last week.

Tomorrow the Hereford chase will go on display beside the Mappa Mundi and the chained library, in the cathedral museum.

The Hereford casket is in good condition and, like the one destined for the Victoria and Albert Museum, is made of oak and copper plates overlaid with Limoges enamel.

The Very Rev Robert Willis, Dean of Hereford, said the artefact was about a third

shorter than the Becket chase, probably because it contained a smaller part of Becket's anatomy, "perhaps a finger".

Mr Willis said that the piece had been authenticated by an expert on Limoges enamel. "The Becket chase's pattern is identical to the one in Hereford Cathedral apart from two monks added to the figures on the larger casket. About 42 of the caskets were made in the late 12th century. My guess is that about nine remain in England and Scotland," he said. "I think ours is the only one left in its original religious foundation."

Most reliquary chests were taken from monasteries at their dissolution in 1536, and the relics inside dispersed.

Leading article, page 19



The Very Rev Robert Willis with Hereford's chase

West put main blame on wife, inquest told

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

FREDERICK WEST blamed his wife for the Cromwell Street murders before his apparent suicide in jail, an inquest heard yesterday.

The Gloucester builder wrote to his daughter Anne-Marie claiming Rosemary West, now serving ten life sentences, was the "main person" involved.

Anne-Marie said West believed he would be found not guilty of murdering 12 women. But he became increasingly depressed and was found hanged on January 1, 1995, with a noose made from a prison blanket sewn with needles and thread used for his prison job, mending shirts.

Weeks earlier he told his son Stephen he planned to kill himself, believing that would lead to his wife being freed, Birmingham coroner Richard Whittington heard. On the first day of the inquest, Anne-Marie West said her father had earlier seemed optimistic, talking of buying a large house and moving her and his grandchildren in with him.

Of the murders, she said: "He actually wrote me a letter naming Rosemary as doing it... He didn't feel he had any of the blame."

However, Stephen West said his father increasingly talked of killing himself, telling him he was now the head of the family and boasting that he had "conned" doctors into thinking he was all right.

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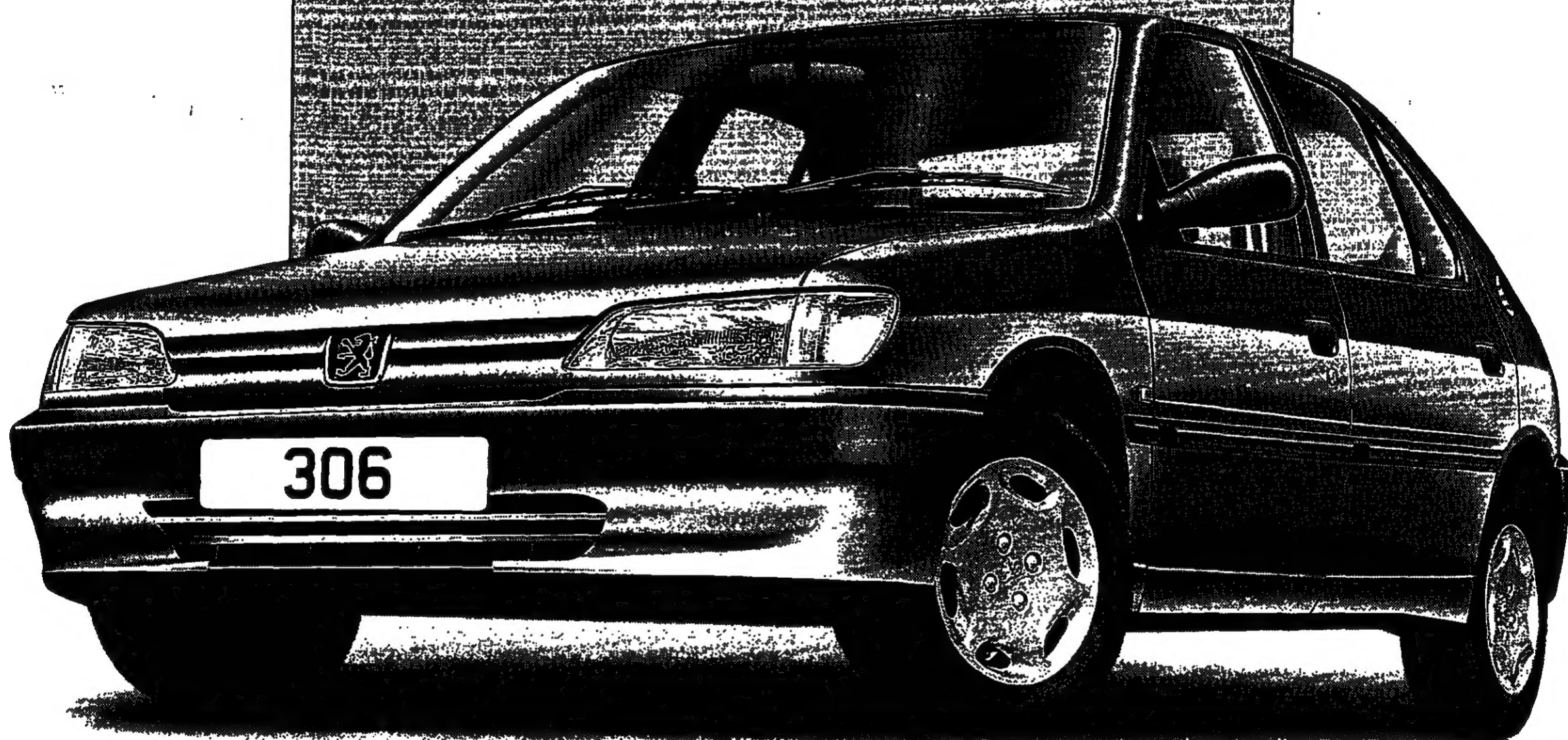
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JP 11/12/96

Rural community speaks of struggle to continue normal life after attack on mother and daughters

Village plagued by fear after double murder

By Bill Frost and Lin Jenkins

UNTIL this week the villagers of Nonington in Kent had believed that they were protected against violence and tragedy by the maze of narrow lanes which effectively cut them off from the outside world. But with the murder of Lin Russell and her six-year-old daughter Megan their comfortable isolation amid orchards and cornfields is over, perhaps for ever.

There is a palpable sense of communal violation and a widely expressed fear that the killer will strike again.

Children at Goodneston Church of England Primary School, which Megan and her sister Josephine, 9, had attended since moving from North Kent last year, were warned not to play alone or go off with strangers.

The victims' classmates were yesterday comforted by teachers. The children played games in the afternoon, but there was little laughter. Daryl Peck, the headmistress, said: "We are trying to maintain a normal school day. The community has joined together to help us through this difficult time."

"This is a lovely family. Although they had only been with us for a short time, they had become part of the school in a very real way. We will miss Megan dreadfully and what we are trying to do now is ensure that Josie has as normal a school environment as possible when she returns." The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, sent his condolences to the school. "It was with great sadness I



Josephine Russell, who survived, and her sister Megan

heard of the murders and the terrible injuries sustained by Josephine. You are being remembered in prayers both here at Lambeth Palace and throughout the diocese."

Dr Carey said that he would also be writing to Mrs Russell's husband, Dr Shaun Russell, who yesterday visited his surviving daughter in hospital, where she is under police guard.

Police said yesterday that Dr Russell, 44, a botanist at the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, was "massively distraught". He raised the alarm when he arrived home at 7.30pm on Tuesday and could not find his family.

Kir Smith, a district councillor and school governor, said: "This terrible business has shattered the whole community."

Caroline Martin, who runs the nursery school in the nearby village of Chillenden, turned parents and children away yesterday. "This has really spooked everybody and

I decided not to open because, under the circumstances, I can't be responsible for the lives of the 18 children I would normally look after."

Sheila Whiteley, the Russells' neighbour, was consoling her daughter Danielle, 6, Megan's best friend. Mrs Whiteley recalled how happy they had been. "I never heard a cross word from Shaun or Lin to their children. Along with the dogs, they were always playing together in the garden."

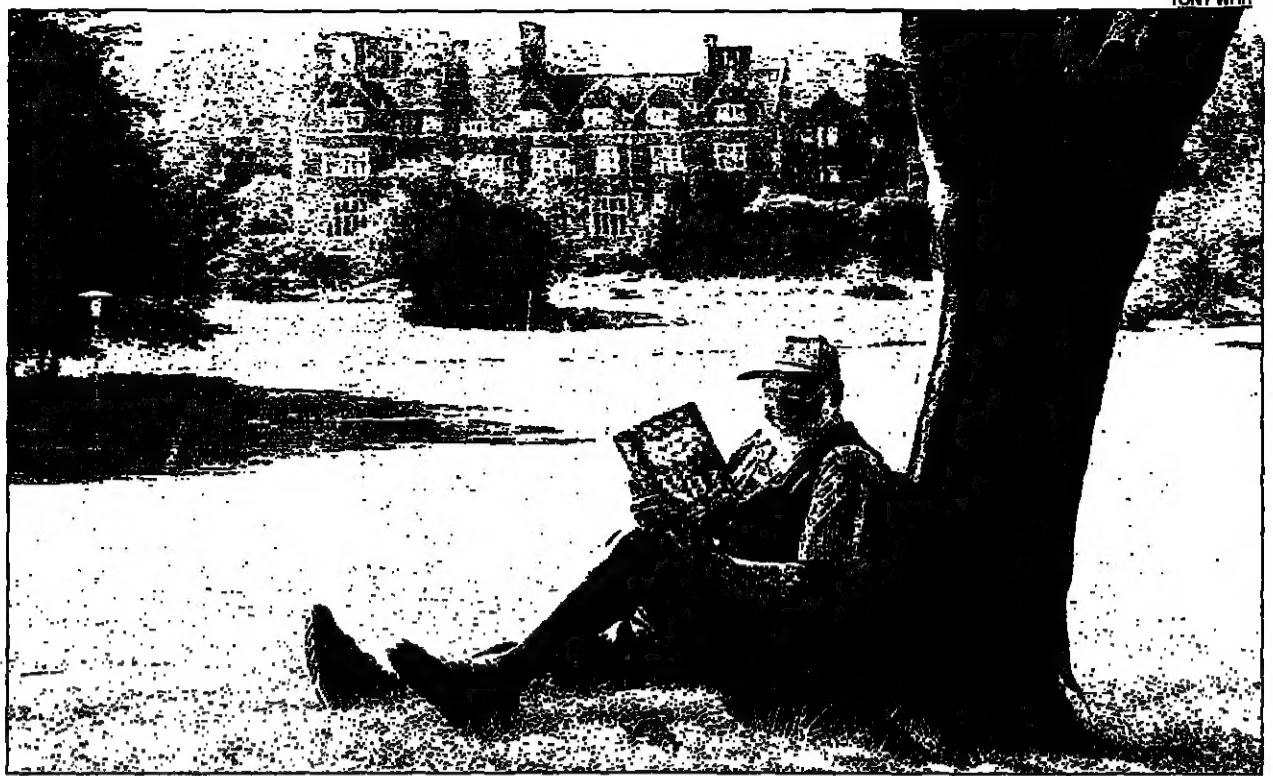
Prayers were also said yesterday by the people of Tarrall, a hamlet in Snowdonia where the Russells formerly lived. Susan Owen, headmistress of the local primary school, said: "They were

such popular, lovely little girls, and Lin was a marvelous mother. She had a doctorate in geology and used to take the pupils out and give them lessons about rocks."

Detective Chief Inspector David Stevens, who is leading the murder hunt, said yesterday that Dr Russell had given an account of his movements at the time of the murders, and described him as "a gentle man". He said he "hoped and prayed" that he would be able to talk to Josephine about the attack, and that everybody in the village would be interviewed. That would include the 80-strong Bruderhof religious community, beside the woods where Mrs Russell and her daughters were found battered. Mrs Russell used to give rides on her daughters' ponies to some of the 35 children at the Christian community. Police will also question patients and staff at the Promise Centre, a private clinic.

Mr Stevens said: "The family are not particularly well known, having moved recently. We will be finding out about Mrs Russell's movements and habits."

Yesterday police and scientists took samples of foliage for examination. Others worked with a psychologist to try to draw up a psychological profile of the killer.



Klaus Meier at the Bruderhof community's house. The Russells were friends as well as neighbours, he said

Finger of suspicion saddens sect

MEMBERS of a Christian sect in Nonington are angered and saddened by local gossip that has painted them as outsiders who might be suspect.

The 80-strong Bruderhof community is based at Beech House, next to Shaun and Lin Russell's home. Klaus Meier, the community's spokesman, admitted that the Bruderhof's "separateness" from the village could fuel misunderstandings. But he said that the pacifist sect had enjoyed a "close and friendly relation-

ship" with the Russells. Mr Meier said: "Lin taught many of our children to ride and her girls' ponies used to graze on our land. Shaun Russell came round often and gave slide shows about his trips abroad when he was with the British Council."

"Suspicion settles on us because they think we set ourselves apart from the village. In fact we are not setting ourselves apart from them at all, only from the violence, corruption and por-

nography of our society." Joe Staingl, another member of the community, was angry that the pacifist sect, expelled from Nazi Germany in 1937, was once again the victim of prejudice. "The Russells were very close friends of ours. There was a very good rapport between us, even though they did not share our beliefs."

"This ignorance and fear really upsets me. We, like everyone else, are stunned by what has happened and cannot put words to our grief for Lin and Megan."

Labour calls for inquiry into Tory tax loophole

By Andrew Pierce
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR is pressing for an Inland Revenue investigation after the Conservative Party's £18.5 million overdraft was reduced through a series of interest-free loans from donors exploiting a tax loophole.

Sir Graham Kirkham, knighted in January, six months after he converted a £4 million three-month bridging loan into a gift, is the latest beneficiary to take advantage of the system.

Top-rate taxpayers would normally pay 40 per cent on the interest from a £4 million deposit. But Sir Graham, by loaning the money to the Tories, ensured they received the full pre-tax interest. The party has special tax status not shared by the other parties and pays tax only on the interest from its own investments.

Aides of Sir Graham, the founder of the DFS furniture chain, declined to discuss his relationship with the Tory party. But the loan was agreed after he was visited by John Major.

"It is fair to say it was converted to a gift," said an aide to Sir Graham, who is worth about £300 million. But The Times understands that there was a three-month delay before the loan was converted, effectively making it a six-month loan. The final total of the gift is also understood to be have been £5 million.

In 1982 the Inland Revenue tried to claim back corporation tax from Conservative



Sir Graham Kirkham: knighted after donation

Central Office. But the High Court ruled that funds were controlled by the party leader and not by Central Office.

Labour estimates that the secretive system has denied the Inland Revenue millions of pounds. Alistair Darling, Shadow Treasury spokesman, said last night: "The party of government, which has increased taxes time and time again, has transformed its finances without paying tax. The secretive and shadowy system should be exposed."

An Inland Revenue spokesman said: "If we are provided with information about possible tax evasion we will look at what is said, but it does not follow that there is an automatic investigation."

Some Tory MPs have also expressed private misgivings about the continuing controversy. Eric Chalker, an executive member of the committee of the National Union, the voluntary wing of the Tory Party, also criticised the loans system.

Tycoon who likes to settle bills in cash

THE furniture tycoon Sir Graham Kirkham is known as "Peeler" among the few people who recognise the reticent multimillionaire on his home turf in South Yorkshire (Paul Wilkinson writes).

The title refers to his habit of settling bills in cash by peeling £50 notes from a wad in his pocket. He is rumoured once to have given a £1,000 tip to a waiter in Monte Carlo.

Four years ago the 51-year-old was placed just outside the country's 100 wealthiest with £80 million, but is now worth probably three times that. However, he does not live an overly ostentatious lifestyle. He drives a Bentley, but there is no private yacht and his only personal aircraft is a microlight.

Much of his private fortune is spent on his eclectic art and antiques collection spanning

four centuries and on a stable of almost two dozen horses. He shuns the limelight and he and his wife, Pauline, jealously guard the privacy of their large four-bedroomed house in the village of Sprotborough.

Six years ago he bought the neighbouring Georgian mansion, Cantley Hall, but did not move in. Instead he spent a small fortune restoring it in grand style as a personal gallery for his extensive collection of paintings and period furniture, said to be worth £10 million.

In 1993 he celebrated the donation of DFS Furniture by buying a Gainsborough, Peasants Going to Market, for £3.5 million because he felt it was appropriate. His thirst for such treasures is great and in the past part of his director's fees has been paid in antiques.

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Parliament echoes to fanfare for man of uncommon spirit

By Alan Hamilton

IF NELSON MANDELA had a vision of Heaven during his long years in prison, could it have been holding the hand of Miss Betty Boothroyd to the sound of trumpets?

Or could it simply have been addressing both houses of the Mother of Parliaments in circumstances of the highest honour they can bestow upon a visitor, and receiving a prolonged standing ovation at the end of a forceful and moving 30-minute address?

Not since de Gaulle in 1960 has a foreign Head of State been granted centre stage in Westminster Hall. President Clinton had to make do with the much less grand Royal Gallery when he addressed Parliament last year.

Met at the door by John and Norma Major, the Lord Great Chamberlain and Black Rod, Mr Mandela made a dramatic entrance into a hall filled with members of the Lords and Commons. Sunlight enlivened the stained glass of the memorial west window, firing the scarlet of the Yeomen of the Guard and Gentlemen at Arms. State trumpeters blew a fanfare. Mr Mandela appeared, flanked by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Speaker in the Lords, and Miss Boothroyd.

The red-carpeted staircase from entrance to podium is long and steeply descending. Madam Speaker clutched the

hand of Mr Mandela, who is 78 and sometimes walks with the stiffness of age, supporting him down the steps. For a woman whose life is dedicated to shouting at the unruly, she wore a look of serene happiness.

Mr Mandela stood to attention as the band of Grenadier Guards played his national anthem. Madam Speaker, who appeared to know some of the words of *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika*, sang along for a few bars. Lord Mackay welcomed Mr Mandela, with passing reference to Westminster Hall having witnessed 1,000 years on the rocky road to British democracy.

Then Mr Mandela rose

from his gilded chair and walked to the lectern to prolonged applause. It was, he said, with a deep sense of humility that he stood there; his presence closed a 200-year-old circle that had begun with the British colonisation of the Cape in 1795.

He remembered the British who had fought for black freedom, from William Wilberforce to Lord Brockway. He recalled Harold Macmillan's "wind of change" speech and the debt owed to Archbishop Trevor Huddleston.

Racism, Mr Mandela said, was a blight on the human condition. "The idea that any people can be inferior to another to the point where

those who consider themselves superior define and treat the rest as sub-human denies the humanity even of those who would elevate themselves to the status of gods."

He likened the crime of apartheid to Nazism in Europe and the decimation of the native peoples of America and Australia. "All these are like a haunting question that floats in the wind: why did we allow this to happen? It seems to us that as the ordinary people of the world came to understand the real nature of the system of apartheid, they decided that they would not allow their response to that question to be to hang their heads in shame." Mr

Mandela paid tribute to the millions of Britons, and others throughout the world, who had stood up against apartheid. "Our emancipation is their reward. We know that the freedom we have found is a richly textured gift, hand-crafted by ordinary folk who would not allow their dignity as human beings to be insulted."

In the acceptance of that gift, it contained an undertaking by our people that we shall never, never again allow our country to play host to racism. Nor shall our voices be stilled if we see that another elsewhere in the world is the victim of racial tyranny."

Mr Mandela said that the foundation stones of the new South Africa included the ending of disparities in wealth, income and opportunity between races, and a growing economy. "Because they are poor, these millions understand the effort and time it will take from walking barefoot to the comforts of a truly decent existence."

As Mr Mandela sat down, both houses rose and gave a long standing ovation. Madam Speaker thanked him, then took his arm again as they left the hall to the accompaniment of William Walton's theme music from *Oliver's film of Richard III*. A curious choice, but perhaps it had something to do with a winter of discontent being made glorious summer.

Speaker recalls days of protest

BETTY BOOTHROYD told President Mandela that she had been a member of the Black Sash, a white women's movement against apartheid.

The Speaker said: "Along with others of my generation I stood with Black Sash outside South Africa House in the hope of instilling some sense of shame among government supporters inside. We were realistic. We had no great hopes of influencing their policy, but it was a matter of principle."

In a speech of thanks frequently interrupted by applause, she told the President that he represented "an outstanding victory of the human spirit over evil... As a result of your determination to end apartheid you spent more than a third of your life in prison, though your spirit was freer there than that of your captors outside. And when you were released it

was remarkable to see you emerge with no feeling of personal bitterness towards those who had denied your freedom."

Miss Boothroyd said that members of Black Sash were not revolutionaries. "They were ordinary white women driven by a sense of decency and fair play". Turning to the President, she said: "You were one of those in our minds throughout silent vigils. I never expected to stand here under the famous hammer beams of Westminster Hall, which have witnessed so many of the great events of British history, and see you honoured so rightly and so full-heartedly by both Houses of Parliament."

She concluded: "South Africa House, where once you were vilified, you will enter tomorrow as Head of State." The House applauded once again.



Betty Boothroyd assisting President Mandela in Westminster Hall yesterday



Penfriends invited to show

LYNN and Jim Barnard, from Bramhall, Greater Manchester, were preparing yesterday to travel to London to be one of the "special friends" of Nelson Mandela invited to a royal charity concert. The couple, who have been penfriends with Mr Mandela for 30 years, received the invitation from the Prince of Wales at the President's insistence.

Mr Barnard started writing to Mr Mandela 34 years ago

when he was first jailed. His wife became involved when she noticed Mr Mandela's name on his Christmas card list. The concert, held last night at the Royal Albert Hall, was attended by the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and other members of the Royal Family. Performers included Phil Collins, Quincy Jones, Tony Bennett and a number of South African stars.

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£7,000 for Lawrence's Arabic dictionary

THE well-thumbed Arabic-English dictionary used by T.E. Lawrence when he was a secret agent in North Africa during the First World War fetched £7,015 at Sotheby's in London yesterday.

It was among a collection of Lawrence of Arabia memorabilia, including rare books, maps and poems, offered by the author Peter Hopkirk which fetched more than £30,000.

The *Student's Arabic-English Dictionary* by F. Steingass was used by Lawrence while working in the Cairo intelligence department just before the Arab revolt against the Turks in 1916, in which he played a crucial role. He later used it at the 1919 Versailles peace conference in his role as British liaison officer with the Emir Faisal.

Lawrence presented the dictionary to Sir Gerard Clauson, the Arabic and Turkish language scholar, when the two worked together in the Colonial Office in 1920. Mr Hopkirk bought it from a London bookseller 20 years ago for £25.

A first edition of Ian Fleming's novel *You Only Live Twice*, inscribed by him to the "real" James Bond, fetched £12,650 at Sotheby's. Fleming took the agent's name from a neighbour in Jamaica, a mild-mannered American ornithologist. Fleming thought the name was "brief, unromantic and yet very masculine".

Briton and stranded Hungarians wait with bodies of dead companions

Potholers face sixth night trapped under the Alps

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

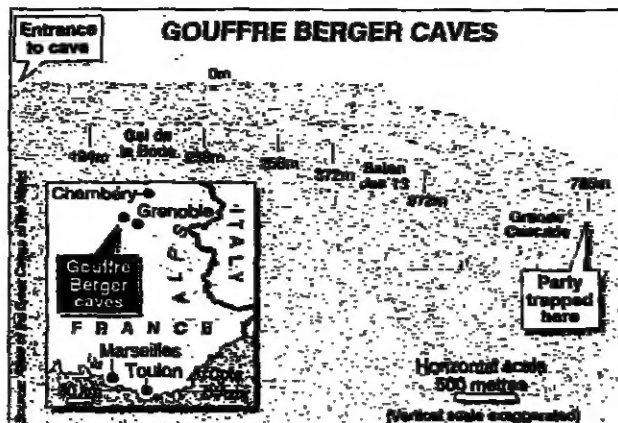
AN EXHAUSTED British potholer trapped by flood waters 2,500ft beneath the French Alps was yesterday facing a sixth night in the icy tomb where the body of a woman companion is awaiting recovery. A paramilitary police captain in charge of the rescue said high waters in the Gouffre Berger caves would make it very difficult to bring out William Stead and three stranded Hungarians.

Mr Stead, 37, has been waiting to be brought to the surface since torrential rain on Saturday caused a flash flood that swept away an Oxford University expedition, drowning his companions Nicola Perrin and a Hungarian.

Captain Gerard Valich said new ropes were being installed in the caves and that two of the Hungarians suffering from severe hypothermia might have to be brought out on stretchers, seriously delaying the rescue.

M. Valich said that the survivors were cold and weak and would need medical treatment. Rescuers located the body of Mrs Perrin, 31, and Tordia Istvan, 25, on Wednesday, and yesterday doctors reached the survivors in one of the most dangerous parts of the caves.

Mr Stead, a bachelor, and



Mrs Perrin, married, both from Merseyside, remained members of Oxford University Cave Club after graduating. They had been due to join an annual six-week expedition of 20 members exploring caves in the Picos de Europa in northern Spain after stopping off for some "tourist caving" at the popular Gouffre Berger caves near Grenoble.

Dr John Singleton, a senior member of the club who lectures in condensed matter physics at Oxford, said yesterday: "Everyone is devastated by what has happened. Nicola and William were very experienced potholers, very physically fit and well prepared for any eventuality. They were overtaken by an act of nature

for which there is no preparation. This is the first fatality the club has known."

He added: "Any suggestion that Nicola and William were foolhardy in going down is wrong. They were two of the very best potholers I would first choose to take on an expedition with me. When a flash flood occurs it is largely luck where you happen to be at the time."

Mrs Perrin graduated in geography from St Hugh's College, Oxford, in 1986. She and her husband, Nick, had no children.

Mr Stead graduated in chemistry from University College in 1978 and took a DPhil before joining the chemical products manufacturers

Lever Bros near his home. Both kept extremely fit.

When they failed to return on Monday British and French rescuers converged on the 3,702ft deep Gouffre Berger in the Vercors plateau near the village of Engins. The temperature in the caves never rises higher than 3C and humidity is 100 per cent.

Twenty-nine rescuers carrying wetsuits and food were down the pothole yesterday as flood waters subsided. They had first secured a telephone line to the survivors.

Officials said the group were taken by surprise by rising water. They had separated before beginning their ascent, with the three Hungarians staying to collect equipment.

Twenty accidents have taken place in the Berger cave since its discovery in 1953. The body of a 17-year-old Briton, Alex Pitcher, was found in June 1988, ten months after he was lost. Jack Pickup, controller with the Cave Rescue Organisation, covering the Yorkshire Dales, said: "I wouldn't say it's particularly dangerous. People get into trouble when the water rises because it really shoots through."

Visits to the cave have to be booked through the local mayor. So great is its popularity that there is a three-year waiting list.



Nicola Perrin, who drowned in the French cave

Autistic girl wins right to US school funding

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

AN AUTISTIC six-year-old girl won the right yesterday to council funding for her to be educated abroad. The High Court ruling will set a precedent for families with severely disabled children.

Tracy Cherrish challenged the refusal of Cheshire County Council to part-fund a place for her daughter, Hannah, at the Higashi School, a pioneering special school in the United States, where the fees are almost £53,000 a year. The costly dispute prompted the judge hearing the case to express "despair at seeing this haemorrhage of money".

Mr Justice Sedley said a hearing at which the Special Educational Needs Tribunal backed the council was flawed and should be held again. The tribunal could order the council to pay part of Hannah's education costs if the sum was no more than the cost of educating her in Britain.

Jack Rabinowitz, Mrs Cherrish's solicitor, said later that although the Higashi was the first choice for many parents of children with learning difficulties local authorities were reluctant to meet even part of the costs. "But the judge has accepted this is something which they must seriously consider."

Mrs Cherrish obtained private funding to send Hannah to the Higashi School, Boston, in September 1993. Hannah made considerable progress but had to return home last April when the money ran out.

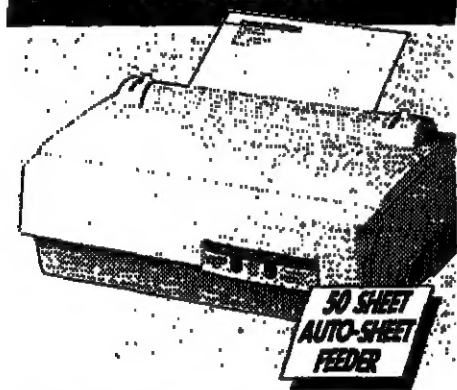
The judge said an "unhappy and wasteful deadlock" followed when the county council offered to fund Hannah's schooling retrospectively, but not at Higashi. Mrs Cherrish rejected what she regarded to be an "unsuitable" alternative offer of a place for Hannah as a £35,000-a-year day pupil at Lams House special school, in Cheshire.

An unnamed beneficiary offered to pay the difference between the costs of the English and American schools, but the education authority stood by its decision.

Education, page 35

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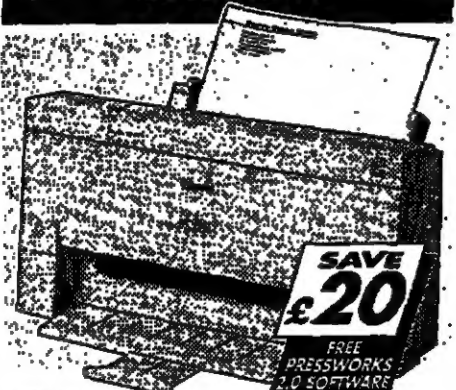


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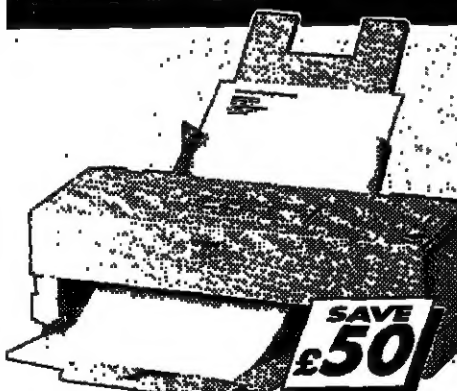


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Fruits of summer the ideal blend

By ROBIN YOUNG

FRESH fruit can be used to make refreshing summer drinks and ice lollies. Suggestions from the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Information Bureau include using the blender to make cocktails from peaches, nectarines and cherries, or a variety of tropical fruit. Honey, mixed spices, nutmeg or wine can be added to taste.

Announced promotions include:

Asda: lamb and "healthy choice" pork reduced by 50p a kg, beef rump steak £7.99 a kg, peppers £1.49 for four, cauliflower 39p each, new potatoes 69p for 2.5kg. Budgens: fresh chicken thighs £2.99 for 1.2kg, red/green capscums 49p each, Lyons frozen tiger king prawns £2.99 for 227g, Frigilance French lemon sorbet £1.79 a litre, Danone Bio low-fat natural yogurt 79p for 500g. Co-op: fresh chicken steaks £1.69 for 400g, whole Scottish salmon £5.49 a kg, Danepak smoked back bacon £1.49 for 190g, extra thick single cream 49p for 284ml. Harrods: smoked salmon £18.95 for 680g, sevruga caviar £31.50 for 50g, roast turkey breast £9.99 for 100g, breasts £3.39 for 100g, large sushi box £5.49.

WEEKEND SHOPPING

Tealand: chicken drumsticks £2.49 for 1.01kg, hot 'n' spicy breadsticks 99p for two, peppered mackerel £2.99 for 680g, mini prawn balls £1.49 for 12, breaded cod steaks £2.49 for six, whole beans 99p for 907g, potato noisettes 99p for 680g, zabaglione £1.99 for 6/8 portions. Marks & Spencer: Aberdeen Angus beef £1 off, butter roasted boneless turkey breast joint £3.99 for 510g, oak smoked salmon £2.99 for 125g, lemons, tangerines and clementines 99p for 283g, Italian-style salad £1.39 for 125g, Californian style salad £1.25g, 50p off all patisserie tarts.

Morrisons: chicken breast fillet supreme £8.36 a kg, super roasts chickens up to 2.75kg £3.99 each, Kingsmill loaf 49p for 800g, macaroni cheese 79p for 300g, Gao fruit yogurt 99p for 4 x 125g.

Sainsbury: rump steak £7.79 for 863g, gammon steak smoked £1.59 or unsmoked £1.29 for 255g, chicken and cashew nuts £1.99 for 300g, tomatoes 55p a lb, new potatoes 16p a lb, white seedless grapes £1.29 a lb, strawberries £1.49 for 454g.

Sainsbury's: fillet steak £15.19 a kg, pork boneless loin chops £5.79 a kg, boneless chicken breast £3.95 for four, trout fillet £8.35 a kg, plums 64p a lb, Galia melons 74p each, apple juice £3.99 for 6 x 1ltr. Sainsbury's: fillet steak £15.86 a kg, whole/half lamb shoulder £3.39 a kg, whole roast chicken £3.48 a kg, tomatoes 79p for six, mangosteen £1.09 for 200g, sugarsnap peas £1.09 for 200g, red potatoes £1.45 for 2.5kg, mixed salad 49p for 180g.

Waitrose: fourth of beef £3.99 a kg, half leg of lamb £5.39 a kg, pork loin steaks £5.39 a kg, salmon steaks £2.95 a lb, cod fillet £1.95 a lb, peaches and nectarines 19p each, cherries £1.24 a lb, white seedless grapes £1.49 a lb.

Waitrose: British roasting beef £4.39 a kg, boneless chicken breasts £6.49 for six, smoked haddock fillets £2.95 a lb, Duke of York new potatoes 75p a kg, sweetcorn 39p each, Braeburn apples 49p a lb, raspberries £1.99 for 360g, squeezed Florida orange juice 79p 10 for 1.75ltr.

Pilot describes air-drop killing

By A STAFF REPORTER

AN RAF Hercules pilot told a court yesterday how he hit and killed an Army private while making an air-drop during a low-flying exercise. Squadron Leader Michael Morison, 42, denies prosecution claims that he was buzzing ground crew in a game of "chicken".

Giving evidence at Bristol Crown Court, he described how he was distracted by a sudden instrument failure moments before the accident at South Cerney airfield, near Cirencester, Gloucestershire, on August 4, 1994.

Private Christopher Game, 21, from Poole, Dorset, was

standing on top of a recovery truck and was struck by the rear ramp of the aircraft, which was flying at 140mph at 12ft to 14ft from the ground.

Squadron Leader Morison, who denies manslaughter, said that, moments before, he had glanced down at his radar altimeter after his flight engineer said that it was faulty. "I was surprised because it had never happened to me at that stage before. I believe I was levelling out at 50ft at this point."

When he looked up to the left of the aircraft's nose he saw a man standing on the roof of a lorry. There was an

impact one or two seconds later. "I felt a thump through the airframe. I was horrified."

Earlier, Nigel Pascoe, QC, for the defence, told the jury: "This decent, responsible, likeable man was virtually incoherent on the ground immediately afterwards. We say this was a dreadful accident to which his flying might have contributed, but it was not a criminal act."

Asked by Mr Pascoe about low-flying regulations, Squadron Leader Morison said that, over approved drop zones, he considered he was authorised to fly as low as 10ft. The trial continues today.

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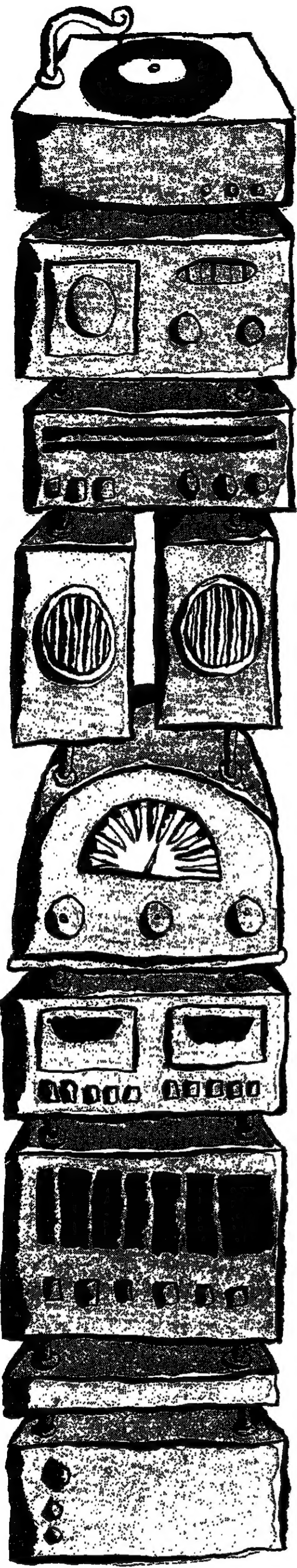
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Someone Cares



Indian households are top investors in the stock market

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

INDIANS have embraced Margaret Thatcher's vision of a share-owning democracy and are the keenest players of the stock market in Britain, according to a government survey disclosing the nation's saving habits.

Members of the Indian community are more likely to own stocks and shares than other groups and flocked to subscribe to the big Conservative privatisations of public utilities. Indian households also have a higher proportion of building society accounts than other ethnic groups.

However, their prosperity does not extend to all Asians. Among Indian households, 23 per cent have stocks and shares, compared with 21 per cent of whites, 12 per cent of blacks and 8 per cent of Pakistanis and Bangladeshis. Richard Berthoud, of the Policy Studies Institute, explained the differences by class and income: Pakistanis and Bangladeshis in Britain are particularly poor and blacks tend to have working-class jobs, while many Indians are middle-class.

Sukhwant Sandher, 33, co-

ordinator of the Indian Workers' Association, a friendly society, said: "It's a question of priorities. I know English friends who have to have their annual two-week holiday. It doesn't occur to me that that's what I should do."

"My children are quite young, but I am thinking for the long term to leave them a nest-egg, because that is the way I was brought up."

The flotation of the building societies made many Indians instant shareholders because so many of them had savings accounts. They also bought into the privatised utilities as safe investments.

The Family Resources Survey, published by HMSO for the Department of Social Security, shows that nearly a third of British households have no savings and almost half have saved less than £1,500. The elderly have the most financial assets, with 30 per cent of pensioner couples having saved £20,000 or more, making them ineligible for free residential or nursing care if they need it.

Hopes that large numbers of Britons would become

shareholders have failed to materialise, despite 17 years of Tory exhortations. Just over a fifth of households have any stocks or shares. Only one in nine has invested in Tassas.

The figures raise an intriguing question about the Scots. Although they are known to be almost as wealthy as the English and much richer than the Welsh, they have fewer savings and current accounts. Perhaps the stereotype of a canny Scot hiding his fortune under the mattress has some factual basis after all.

People in their early sixties are the most likely to own stocks and shares, Tassas and unit trusts. The over-80s are the best customers of Post Office accounts.

More 5 to 15-year-olds have Post Office savings (12 per cent) than single parents (10 per cent). However, only 7 per cent in their twenties have stocks and shares and only 12 per cent in their thirties. But 15 per cent of babies have a building society account before their first birthday.

□ Family Resources Survey (HMSO: £20)

HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS BY ETHNIC GROUPS

TYPE OF ACCOUNT	% OF HOUSEHOLDS			
	WHITE	BLACK	INDIAN	PAKISTANI/ BANGLADESHI
Current account	78	60	79	61
Post Office account	14	5	9	4
Tassas	11	4	10	5
Other building society	58	48	59	28
Other bank account	20	12	14	12
Other accounts	2	2	2	2
Gifts	2	0*	1	0
Unit trusts	7	2	9	2
Stocks and Shares	21	12	23	8
National Savings Bonds	8	0*	3	2
Save as you earn	2	1	1	0
Premium Bonds	32	9	22	11
Any type of account	91	78	90	75
No accounts held	9	22	10	25

Source: Family Resources Survey

* Negligible

Source: Family Resources Survey

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Travelling backwards may be an advantage for horses

Horse in reverse is the one to back

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

RACEHORSES may run faster if they go backwards — not in the race itself, but on their journey from the stable to the course. Research suggests the animals suffer less stress and waste less energy in horseboxes if they travel facing the back.

Racehorse trainers and handlers said yesterday that there might be something in the theory, but doubted that the benefits would be big enough to warrant changing the current practice of mainly forward-facing transport.

Derek Cuddell, a senior lecturer at Edinburgh University's school of veterinary studies, who took part in the research, said: "I cannot promise that backward-facing horses will necessarily win, but anything that reduces stress must be beneficial. You are maximising the chances of the horse performing well."

The experiment, reported in the latest issue of the *Veterinary Record*, showed that thoroughbreds transported facing backwards had lower

heart rates, neighed less often and maintained better balance. Their heart rates were also lower when loaded into trailers backwards.

According to the researchers, horses "have evolved to carry about 60 per cent of their bodyweight over the forelegs, and the hindquarters are poorly designed for continual shifting of weight and direction". A backward-facing horse can cope better with lateral sway, which is more pronounced at the back of the trailer. Facing the rear, they say, the horses are also able to rest their rumps against the bulkhead during deceleration.

Merrick Francis, managing director of Lambourn Racehorse Transport and son of the racing novelist Dick Francis, said: "In the 1950s and 1960s, most horses did travel facing backwards. One of the main reasons for the change was that the lads minding the horses did not like being stuck at the back of the lorry."

Racing, pages 38, 39

NEWS IN BRIEF

Soccer star cleared of assault

The Manchester United player Nicky Butt was cleared of headbutting a love rival. A jury at Manchester Crown Court found him not guilty of assaulting Peter Oldbury, 26, in the toilet of a Chinese restaurant.

Mr Oldbury, who once dated the player's girlfriend, Shelley Barlow, had claimed that the player broke his nose in an unprovoked attack. But Mr Butt, 21, of Heaton Mersey, Greater Manchester, told the court that the "envious" Mr Oldbury was the one who had been causing trouble since he started seeing Ms Barlow in 1993.

Scott restoration

The Scott Monument in Edinburgh is to be restored with the help of a £1.6 million lottery grant. The work will take 16 months and is expected to start next spring.

Ecstasy charges

Two Britons have been charged in Sydney with importing Ecstasy. Richard Meston, 19, and Ian Hines, 23, of Romford, east London, were remanded in custody.

Overwork award

June Telford, a Newcastle upon Tyne hotel worker, has won a £3,000 payout after being sacked for working too hard. Employers claimed it was endangering her health.

Woman freed

A woman jailed for contempt of court after hitting a barrister with a can of peas was freed yesterday by the Court of Appeal, which cut her three-month sentence to 28 days.

Toddler to rescue

A girl of 3 rang 999 after her mother fell downstairs and gave her address in Portsmouth. Ambulance staff found that Abigail Harfield's mother had fallen because of flu.

Gnome home

A bungalow in Pembrokeshire is for sale on condition that the buyer takes on 191 gnomes in the garden, which have become a tourist attraction and raise money for charity.

Cancer charity will put women in a more positive frame

PART of the pleasure of walking down Walton Street in Chelsea has been the opportunity of peering longingly through the window of Sarah Davenport's art gallery. Mrs Davenport has made a speciality of paintings of dogs. In her window huge canvases of Newfoundland dogs and lean Victorian greyhounds have jostled with watercolours by Samuel Howard and cushions embroidered with pictures of bulldogs.

The gallery has been taken

over by another dealer, who judging from the present exhibition is not at all interested in dogs. All of Mrs Davenport's pictures, both from the gallery and her private collection, are being sold at Bonhams on October 10 to fund a new charity, the Breast Cancer Trust, which will be associated with Charing Cross Hospital in London.

Mrs Davenport is to devote her time and money to the charity, which will be particularly concerned with the emo-



tional and other psychological problems that face women who need to have breast surgery. From the experience of her friends, she has found that although the health service offers wonderful medical care it does not always give

them the general support they need.

The *Lancet* has recently published a major report from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's epidemiology unit in Oxford on the effect of the Pill on the incidence of breast

cancer. The statisticians have studied the case histories of more than 50,000 women who had breast cancer and 100,000 women without it who acted as controls.

It is widely known that those women who take the Pill have a slightly greater chance of developing cancer of the breast, and that has been confirmed by the study. The increased risk is small. If 10,000 women took the Pill up to the age of 30 there would be five extra cases of breast

cancer. It is less well known that ten years after stopping the Pill a woman who had previously taken it is at no increased risk of developing breast cancer. Nor is it appreciated that women who take the Pill tend to have cases of breast cancer diagnosed earlier, and therefore probably have a better chance of making a complete recovery.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

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Lung bypass is shown to halve baby death rate

By Gillian Bowditch
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE lives of dozens of newborn babies, with potentially fatal lung problems, have been saved by a controversial new lung-bypass machine, doctors said yesterday.

The results of a nationwide study into extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), published for the first time today in *The Lancet*, show that the machine, which costs more than £50,000, almost halves the death rate for babies with respiratory problems.

The ECMO is a life-support machine which allows a baby's lungs to rest. A line is put into the baby's neck and its blood is withdrawn, oxygenated and pumped back into the body. The treatment, which is usually needed for five to six days, costs an average of £20,000 per baby.

About 200 babies a year are born with conditions such as high blood pressure in the lungs or pneumonia, which could be treated using ECMO. Many are at death's door by the time they reach the hospital and transporting them is a high-risk business.

Initially British paediatricians were sceptical about the machine, which was introduced to Britain from the United States six years ago. Many doctors believed that it had little to offer over conventional ventilator and drug treatments. But a £1.2 million study funded by the Government shows that the system is



Success story: Declan McMeekin and his father

a success and that many more babies may be saved in future.

The machine is available at only five hospitals in Britain: Glenfield Hospital, Leicester; the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street, London; Freeman Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne; King's College Hospital, London; and the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Yorkhill, Glasgow.

Carl Davis, a consultant paediatric surgeon at the Glasgow hospital, said the randomised study showed that of the 93 babies given ECMO treatment, 32 per cent died compared with a 59 per cent death rate for the 92 babies given conventional treatment. In total 83 hospitals participated in the study by

assessing patients and sending them to the ECMO hospitals.

The data was independently assessed by the eminent epidemiologist Sir Richard Doll, who called a halt to the study last November when it became apparent that ECMO offered the best treatment for seriously ill newborn babies with lung problems.

Mr Davis said the Glasgow hospital, which was one of the pioneers in the study, had treated 66 children from all over Britain with ECMO and had an 80 per cent success rate with newborn babies.

The hospital has three ECMO machines, one of which is kept in reserve. It has trained 22 nurses in the specialised technique and each ECMO patient needs full-time care from two nurses.

Dr Charles Skeoch, a consultant paediatric physician at the Glasgow hospital who took part in the pioneering study, said the clear-cut results meant that he could approach parents in the confident knowledge that the ECMO machine was the best hope for their babies.

"This is the first study that has really made a difference to my neonatal practice," he said.

"Now I can say, 'This machine is the best chance your baby has.'"



Amanda Noon with daughters Shanice, left, whose life was saved, and Whitney

Hospitals seek new blood for donor campaign

By Jeremy Laurence, Health Correspondent

BRITAIN'S two most generous blood donors helped to launch an appeal for 50,000 volunteers yesterday to avert the growing threat of blood shortages at hospitals.

Fred Osborne, 67, who has given 167 units of blood over 40 years — believed to be a world record — and Ted Newbury, 60, who has given over 2,000 units of plasma, the straw-coloured fluid that carries the red blood cells, said yesterday they needed younger people to take their places.

Demand for blood is rising by 2,000 units a week on top of the 50,000 units already used because of the increase in complex operations, such as hip replacements and heart transplants, and new uses for blood products.

The appeal is the largest in the history of the National Blood Service, which marks its fiftieth anniversary this year. A unit of blood or plasma is 450 millilitres, about three quarters of a pint.

Making a plasma donation involves giving blood in the normal way. It is then separated into plasma and red cells and the red cells are returned to the body. Whole blood can be given only once every three months because it takes the body longer to replace the donated red cells.

Mr Newbury, who has given plasma every two weeks since the 1970s, said: "It

doesn't affect you physically — you feel better for it." Mr Osborne, who has given blood every three months since 1953, said: "It is nice to know you are giving someone a hand out when they really need it."

The mother of a two-year-old girl who developed septicaemia after an accident paid tribute to the donors who saved her daughter's life. Shanice Porter was climbing into her high chair with a ballpoint pen in her mouth when she fell on her face. The pen pierced the roof of her mouth, allowing air and bacteria into her neck. She was taken to Birmingham Children's Hospital and given a transfusion of albumin, the protein in the blood used to treat shock, which saved her. Her mother, Amanda, 22, said: "I am very grateful to the donors. Without them I would have lost my daughter."

Last year 1.8 million people gave blood, but many regular donors are over 45. The service is hoping to recruit 18 to 30-year-olds.

The campaign will visit 15 towns over the next two weeks to sign up donors. It will be backed by a cinema advertisement featuring Alexei Sayle as a bored blood corpse who finds a new lease of life when transfused into another person's circulation.

Ailing boy showed instant response

WHEN Declan McMeekin was born by emergency Caesarean section on November 2, 1993, doctors at Bellshill Maternity hospital, Lanarkshire, realised that there was a serious problem with his lungs.

In the womb he had inhaled meconium, the sticky waste product most babies expel in their first nappy, and was close to death. When his mother first saw him he was in intensive care, lying motionless with his eyes closed.

The next day doctors were extremely concerned about his survival and Maureen and Stephen McMeekin were asked if they would take part in the ECMO trial.

Initially they were sceptical. "I felt Declan had been through so much already," Mrs McMeekin, who is expecting her second child in September, said. "I didn't want to put him through

anything else. I felt he had had enough."

She and her husband realised, however, that ECMO could be the baby's last chance. Declan was taken to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow and put on ECMO. "He picked up immediately," Mrs McMeekin, 28, said. "In Bellshill he had been lying lifeless. On ECMO he opened his eyes."

Declan was sedated but awake, allowing his parents to care for him. He came off the ECMO machine after five days and was home at five weeks old.

The treatment was not without stresses. Mr McMeekin's weight dropped by two stone and for a time he lost the power of speech. Mrs McMeekin said: "Declan is now a healthy, normal two-year-old and so the trauma at the time was worthwhile."

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Blair and Major remain coy over pay rise plans

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY Blair kept his MPs guessing last night over whether he will accept the 26 per cent pay rise or repeat his past rejection of anything above the inflation rate.

John Major also kept his intentions to himself. Officials said that the question of whether he took the rise was a "private matter".

Mr Blair, who argued for no more than 3 per cent, did not make clear whether he will accept the £17,000 a year extra that he is now entitled to. Last year he declined to take the 4.7 per cent increase approved by MPs, but yesterday he avoided spelling out his intentions. His pay is due to increase from £66,000 to £83,000 immediately, with the prospect of rising to £98,000 after the election if he is in opposition, or £143,000 if he becomes Prime Minister.

Several MPs have already pledged either to turn down the pay increase, pass it to their staff or give it to charity.

The continuing confusion over pay came after a complex string of late-night votes in which MPs rejected government attempts to limit them to a 3 per cent rise and overwhelmingly voted for an extra £9,000 a year.

The decisions brought charges of hypocrisy against MPs yesterday, with public sector workers whose salaries have been squeezed for several years leading the attack. Union leaders said they would be demanding similar rises for their members.

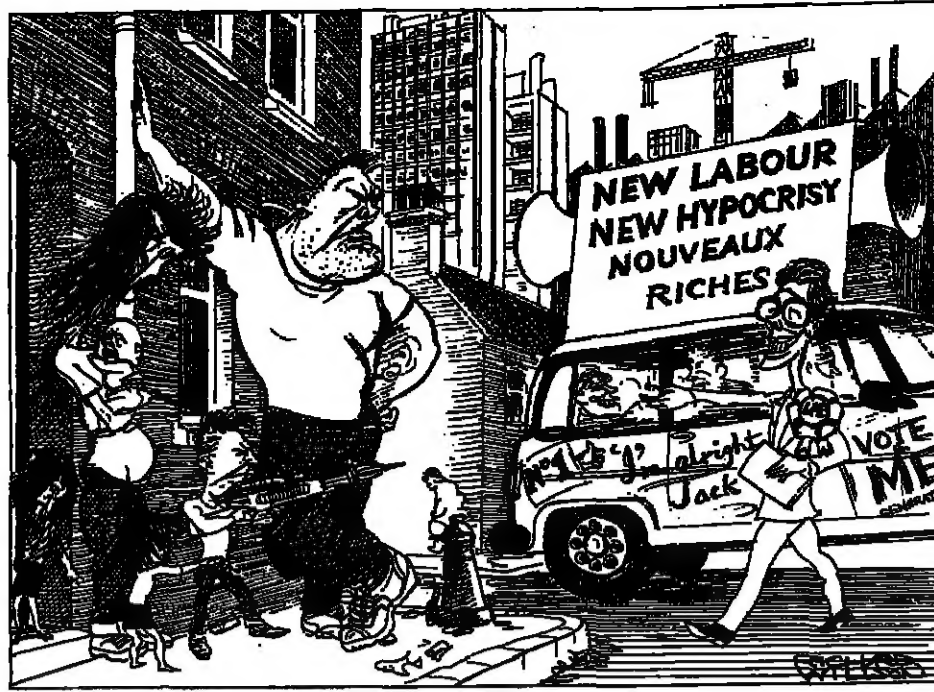
Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison, said: "We don't expect plaster saints of our MPs, but if they are trying to set an example they ought to think about this. 'Let's take the statutory minimum wage. I know that people in that House in the future are going to say millions of people are not worth £4.26 an hour. Then to say they are worth a 26 per cent

increase — that is what I find objectionable."

Although ministers said they were disappointed that their calls for pay restraint had been ignored, there was relief that MPs had not brought the Commons into disrepute by voting themselves a double bonus.

In the dying moments of a highly charged pay debate, Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons, pleaded with MPs not to "cherry pick" the best recommendation from the Senior Salaries Review Body. But a cross-party alliance of 29 MPs tried to do just that, pressing for the 26 per cent pay rise while opposing a cut in their generous car mileage allowance, which has a top rate of 74p a mile.

Those MPs from the more remote constituencies claimed that the high mileage allowance was justified because they needed larger cars for long-distance travel. Some say



that the reduction will cost them up to £6,000.

Those MPs who voted to keep the higher mileage allowance and have a £9,000 pay rise were:

Conservative: David Ainslie (Leicester), Robert Atkins (South Ribbleside), David Atkinson (Bournemouth), Herley Booth (Finsbury), Michael Brown (Bristol), Nicholas Budgen (Wolverhampton), William Cash (Epsom), Neil Hamilton (Telford), Warren Haskew (Halesowen and Stourbridge), Andrew Harcourt (Barnstaple), Walter Sweeney (Vale of Glamorgan), Peter Temple-Morris (Luton), Sir Jerry Wiggin (Weston-super-Mare), Ann Winterton (Congleton), Nicholas Winterton (Blackburn).

Labour: Eric Clarke (Middleham), Bill Etherington (Sunderland North), George Foulkes (Carrick, Cumnock and Doon

Valley), George Galloway (Glasgow Hillhead), Len Gilling (Newcastle-under-Lyme), Peter Kilroy (Liverpool Walton), John McWilliam (Belfast), Martin O'Neill (Chackernham), Tom Parry (Bristol), and Hyde), Sir Ray Powell (Carmarthen), Terry Rooney (Bradford), Robert Wearing (Liverpool West Derby).

Jon Ashton (Barnstaple) voted for both but has pledged to give his additional salary to charity.

Liberal Democrat: Alan Carlisle (Montgomery).

There was a curious anomaly in that more than 20 MPs who voted against a 3 per cent rise were then absent from the vote on the 26 per cent rise. They were accused of avoiding controversy, safe in the knowledge that the £9,000 pay rise

would be passed. They included:

Conservative: Jonathan Aitken (Thames Valley), Sir Richard Body (Holland with Boston), Ian Duncan Smith (Gloucester), Edward Leigh (Gateshead), Nicholas Lyell (Hemel Hempstead), Michael Wilson (New Forest), Sir Michael Marshall (Farnham), David Shaw (Dover).

Labour: John Birtle (Leeds W), Michael Caplan (Barnsley W and Penketh), Tom Cox (Reading), Sam Galbraith (Strathkelvin and Bearsden), Michael Gordon (Glasgow Central), David Hanson (Dorset), Dr Kim Howells (Plymouth), Eric Leaver (Barnsley Central), Andrew Miller (Glasgow Port and Victoria), Rhodri Iwan (Cardiff W), Robert Pary (Liverpool Riverside), Alan Rogers (Barnstaple), Jack Thompson (Warrack), Jon Trickett (Hemel Hempstead), Tony Wright (Carmarthen and Burdett).

Letters, page 19

Messy affair leaves MPs with much to do

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Discretion is often the better part of getting re-elected. For virtually all their parliamentary lives, MPs can hide behind their party whips on controversial votes. But they have had to stand up and be counted over their own pay, and the division lists for Wednesday's votes reveal fascinating patterns of caution and calculation.

They were not entirely free votes. The roughly 130 Tory MPs who form the payroll vote — ministers, whips, parliamentary private secretaries and national officers of the Tory party — were under orders to back restraint and 90 did so. The rest were away on government business, or given the wink by the whips that they could be off for the night. Just 27 Tory backbenchers out of 190 plus who had a genuinely free vote backed the 3 per cent restraint and several of these were ex-ministers like Sir Norman Fowler or Tom King.

By contrast, 124 Tory MPs voted against restraint. Later, Tory backbenchers split 117 to 18 in favour of the full 26 per cent pay rise recommended by the Senior Salaries Review Body. A couple of MPs, Michael Carttiss and Sir Peter Lloyd, opposed both the 3 per cent restraint and the full pay rise.

These votes were not entirely random. MPs who have announced their intention to retire from the Commons were bolder than colleagues seeking re-election. They no longer need to worry about their constituents. A mere three retiring Tory MPs backed restraint, while 45 voted against. Retiring Tories split 40 to 3 in favour of the full pay rise. This is not entirely disinterested since the final salaries of MPs determine pensions.

If MPs were acting rationally, those with safe seats would be more willing to vote for pay rises than those who are defending marginals. According to the calculations of Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher about how the 1992 results would have been affected by the new parliamentary boundaries, the Tories would have held 83 seats with majorities of 10 per cent or less. But

just six of these MPs voted for the full pay rise — in rising order of majority: Walter Sweeney, Ian Twinn, David Sumberg, Edwin Currie, Tony Marlow and Nicholas Budgen. The last three are well known as rugged individualists, while the pay vote may make no difference to the chances of those with such slim majorities as the first three.

But this does not mean that other MPs with slim majorities voted for restraint. Just five supported pay restraint and opposed the full pay rise. The rest did not vote. After excluding those who are retiring, newly created seats with no sitting MPs and the payroll vote, slightly more MPs with highly marginal seats did not vote than voted. The most nervous are those challenged by the Liberal Democrats. Excluding the payroll vote, only five MPs in the top dozen most vulnerable to the Lib Dems voted and two of those were retiring.

Tory MPs were not the only ones to defy their leaders. Tony Blair's appeal for restraint was only backed by three fellow Shadow Cabinet members — Gordon Brown (plus his Shadow Treasury team), Donald Dewar and Mo Mowlam — joined, for once, by the Labour hard-Left. But 11 other Shadow Cabinet members voted against restraint and in favour of the full recommended pay rise, along with three dozen spokesmen and whips.

So Labour cannot avoid responsibility for the pay decision. Indeed, it is desirable that no party can use the vote for its advantage. But the whole affair has been a mess because pay has not been linked to the Nolan changes or to the review of the size and functions of the House which several MPs urged during the debate. The Commons — and the Lords, too judging by last night's *Iolanthe*-like parade of hereditary peers — has a lot to do to rebuild public confidence.

PETER RIDDELL

MPs' PAY: HOW THEY VOTED

The Government's motion calling on the House to back the principle of a 3 per cent pay rise was defeated by 317 votes to 168, a majority of 149.

A 26 per cent pay rise for all MPs as recommended by the review body was supported by 279 votes to 164, a majority of 125.

Pay increases for ministers in line with the review body's recommendations were supported by 253 votes to 48, a majority of 205.

A cross-party amendment providing for MPs who leave the

Commons after July 1 this year to be treated for pension purposes as if they had an annual salary of £45,000 was accepted by 302 votes to 123, a majority of 179.

The recommendation that car mileage allowances be reduced from a top rate of 74.1p per mile to a uniform rate of 47.2p for all sizes of car was accepted by 376 votes to 93, a majority of 377.

A government motion raising office allowances by more than £2,000 to £48,383 was accepted by 215 votes to 188, a majority of 26.



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Serbs savour sour victory in battered Srebrenica

AS MILITARY achievements go, the capture of Srebrenica, involving the forced expulsion of some 30,000 civilians and the massacre of up to 8,000 Muslim men, may have left much to be desired, but yesterday the Serbs celebrated the anniversary of its "liberation" seemingly undeterred.

Though the streets were hardly festive, awash instead with brown water as a bruised sky unloaded torrential rain onto the battered eastern Bosnian town, a few dozen Serb die-hards and local officials packed into the town hall to be entertained with songs from a children's choir, a short play, and an exhibition of photographs.

"When I see my village I know it is Serbia," went the ragged chorus line of one song. The audience applauded enthusiastically. Although most of them were themselves strangers to Srebrenica, having moved in when the Muslim majority disappeared last July, the irony of their patriotism was lost on them.

"I'm happy the Muslims have gone, and I hope they never come back," said Oriana, 15, one of the choir. She was from Glavo to the southwest, and had never been to Srebrenica before the war. When told there was little chance of their return as all the men were dead, she shrugged nonchalantly and stated, predictably, that it was the Serbs who had lost thousands.

Files of the latest edition of the local newspaper, *Our Word*, remained for the most part untouched in the foyer.



Anthony Loyd reports from Srebrenica on a Serb celebration as Muslim refugees, now in Tuzla, remembered the day their menfolk disappeared

Its headline ran "Srebrenica Forever Serbia", though as it was already a month old it had lost a little of its impact.

The Serb dead were honoured, but there was a mass amnesia regarding the events leading to the slaughter of the Muslims.

Serbs living beside roads on which thousands of men were driven blindfolded in open trucks last July recalled nothing of the event.

Those living in the immediate vicinity of any of the scattered execution sites said they could not imagine why war crimes investigators had appeared with pathologists and digging equipment.

"If there are bodies there, then they are Serb bodies of men killed by the Muslims," said Branimir, 15, a schoolboy. "I don't believe there was any massacre."

It was only the chance remark of a councillor, overheard as he complained to a colleague about the work of the war crimes investigators, that gave any hint of a sullied conscience: "We might all as well go to The Hague now and have done with it," he murmured.

Some 18 miles down the road, at Cerska, the soil being turned by the spades of one such investigation team smelled as sour as the Serbs' fruits of victory. Bodies, little more than skeletons held together by mud-stained clothing, appeared from the earth in the numbed, grotesque postures of those who have died violently.

So far they remain in situ, marked by the small red flags of the war crimes unit, and were it not for the smell, a sickly stench of decay that gusts upwards with each new corpse uncovered, and the gravity on the faces of those digging, the scene could resemble an archaeological dig.

"If you can smell it from where you stand," one of the diggers remarked to journalists as he knelt over a skull twisted beneath him, "imagine what I can smell here."

Though the atmosphere in Serb-held eastern Bosnia may be one of a lingering evil, the overriding impression is one of emptiness. There is no traffic, the streets of Srebrenica are empty, village after village burnt and deserted: silence.

The missing people, those still alive, are in Tuzla, where up to 6,000 Srebrenica women commemorated their own anniversary in the presence of Queen Noor of Jordan.

She was at the head of a delegation of other prominent international women who arrived at the industrial town

to mark the first anniversary of the fall of Srebrenica with its bereaved refugees and to show their support.

Packing into a sports stadium, groups of women fainted in the emotion-charged atmosphere as videos of their town were shown, including a clip of the notorious moment when General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb commander, assured the inhabitants of Srebrenica that they would all be safe.

Whatever the outcome of The Hague investigation, at best it may only punish a tiny fraction of those responsible for the massacre at Srebrenica, which is held to be the worst single war atrocity in Europe since 1945.

More of a sense of justice may be found in the future fortunes of those that fought in the fragmented state. There are two worlds today in Bosnia, separated by the checkpoints of Nato troops. The bustling Muslim sector, for all its loss, seems one of economic revival, hope and faith.

The Serb world is one of destitution, bitterness and tortured psychosis; a dark emptiness where they eke out a living among the bones of their victims.

It seems that what they feared they hated: now that they have purged themselves of every trace of their fears, they have nothing left at all. Maybe that is justice.



Queen Noor, left, EU Commissioner Emma Bonino, centre, and Swanee Hunt, US Ambassador to Austria, arrive at Tuzla airport yesterday as world women leaders joined Muslim refugees on the first anniversary of Srebrenica's fall

Arrest of two war leaders ordered

By BEN MACINTYRE

THE Bosnian war crimes tribunal at The Hague yesterday issued international arrest warrants for Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, making the two Bosnian Serb leaders international fugitives from justice, and possibly opening the way for a commando operation to capture them.

The warrants, issued by tribunal judge Claude Jorda a year after the two men were first indicted for genocide, means they can be arrested in any UN member country. They are now, in effect, trapped within the Bosnian Serb republic.

The issuing of international arrest warrants will renew pressure on the major powers to bring about the capture of the Bosnian Serb leader and his military commander. Senior Western diplomats meeting in London on Wednesday agreed jointly that the "right place for Dr Karadzic is The Hague", and the option of mounting a military "snatch" operation to bring the two men to trial has been discussed in Washington. Hearings into the genocide indictment ended last Monday, after a succession of witnesses described the horror of the Serb "ethnic cleansing" campaign. Prosecutors accused the Bosnian Serb leaders of planning and co-ordinating the campaign, and one witness alleged that General Mladic personally witnessed mass executions of Muslims.

Rather than relying on the Serbian authorities to bring the alleged war criminals to justice, every UN country is now obliged to comply with the warrants.

"The question is what people will do with these arrest warrants," Mohamed Sadeq, Bosnia's UN ambassador, said yesterday. "Neither the living nor the dead have justice now."

Any hope Dr Karadzic and General Mladic may have had of heading into comfortable exile evaporated yesterday, since any country sheltering the two would lay itself open to the full wrath of the international community.

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Spain will not be caught napping



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Will Gary Barlow be the Take That who takes it all?



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Fencing out the vandals and other criminals



SPORT 37-44
Why Schumacher's task with Ferrari is so tough

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 42, 43

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY JULY 12 1996

US deal removes last obstacle to reshaping Lloyd's

By Sarah Bagnall

LLOYD'S of London yesterday overcame the last remaining major obstacle to the success of its radical £14 billion restructuring by striking a deal with American regulators.

In return for a £40 million sweetener payable by Lloyd's to American names, US authorities have agreed a framework deal aimed at ending a string of legal disputes.

The framework agreement was signed yesterday morning just hours before the 12-strong committee of the Gooda Walker Action Group delivered an unanimous recommendation to its 3,000 members to accept their share of Lloyd's £3.1 billion settlement offer, which forms part of the restructuring plan.

The action taken by GWAG members is crucial to the success of the settlement offer.

Lloyd's restructuring plan had been under threat from legal actions in America, centring on allegations that a Lloyd's investment in a security and so contravenes US securities law. The fear was that US state securities regulators would bar Lloyd's 2,700 American names from participating in the settlement offer.

David Rowland, chief executive, said: "This agreement removes the final significant obstacle to the resolution of our past problems. I am delighted that we have been able to achieve this through negotiation and compromise, rather than through litigation."

Inflation drops to lowest for 30 months

By Philip Bassett and Janet Bush

HIGH STREET sales put in their strongest performance since January 1990 last month, but Britain's inflation rate still fell to a 30-month low.

Although the Government targets underlying inflation, wage settlements tend to reflect the headline rate. Simon Briscoe, economist at Nikko Europe, said: "The weakness of the headline rate suggests that pay settlements will fall further and holds out the hope of a virtuous circle developing."

The Confederation of British Industry's latest distributive trades survey, published today, shows that all sectors, except specialist food shops, reported a rise in sales compared with a year ago. Book-sellers and stationers and sectors closely related to the housing market, including hardware, china, DIY, furniture, carpets and household goods, showed "marked" increases in sales.

Earlier this week there was another encouraging set of producer prices figures showing that inflationary pressures in industry have waned dramatically. With underlying producer output inflation now running well below underlying retail price inflation, the RPI should show further falls in the months ahead.

Alastair Eperon, chairman of the CBI's distributive trades survey panel, said: "The growth in retail trade gathered pace in June as improving confidence among consumers was reflected in higher spending."

Geoffrey Dicks of NatWest Markets said that in spite of obvious signs of rising demand, another slight fall in the headline rate in June may be seen as facilitating another cut in interest rates.

But there is no sign of strengthening consumer demand leading to higher prices, and the City said that there is a good chance of another base-rate cut at the next monetary meeting on July 30.

Today's CBI survey is the ninth in succession that has shown retail sales volumes rising. Mr Eperon gave a warning that, while such growth was "encouraging", particularly because retailers are expecting the rate of growth to be maintained this month, recent expectations had been disappointed.

The Office for National Statistics reported yesterday that headline inflation fell to 2.1 per cent, from 2.2 per cent in May, the lowest level since December 1993, mainly because of lower housing costs.

However, today's survey suggests that underlying retail growth, which has been broadly stable since the start of the year, is now resuming its upward path, with the three-monthly moving average of retail sales volumes rising from a net 29 per cent to 35 per cent.

The underlying rate, which the Government aims to keep at 2.5 per cent or lower, remained unchanged at 2.8 per cent. Food prices rose more than last month, partly because cold spring weather made many vegetables and fruit more expensive, and there were also higher prices for alcohol and household goods.

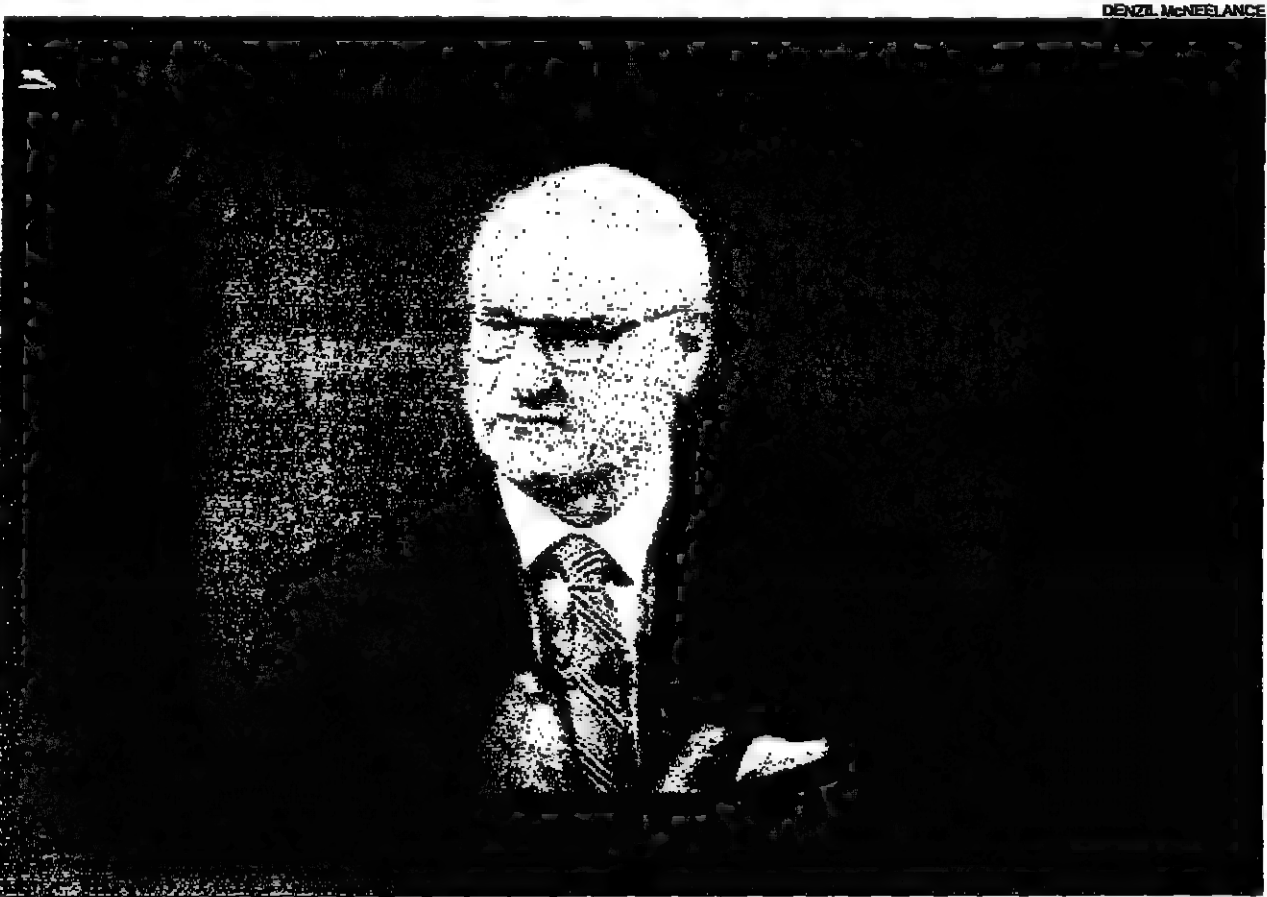
Motor traders reported their strongest growth in sales since February 1994, in spite of expectations of a small fall, though sales growth is expected to moderate this month in the run-up to the new licence prefix in August.

Among wholesalers, sales volumes continued to rise, though at a slower pace than had been expected. Stocks remain excessive in relation to demand.

The Chancellor is expecting consumer spending to grow by 3.25 per cent this year, and by 4.25 per cent in 1997.

Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said that Britain was set fair for the low-inflation future described in the Chancellor's Summer Economic Forecast on Tuesday. This predicted that underlying inflation would fall to 2.5 per cent by the end of this year, and to 2.25 per cent early next year. The optimism on inflation comes in spite of the belief that growth is set to accelerate, fuelled by greater consumer demand, and the two latest sets of figures appear to bear out hopes of this golden combination.

City Diary, page 27



The big picture: Sir Richard Greenbury tells shareholders of the company's progress from a video screen yesterday

Tuckey to end link with ING

By Robert Miller

ANDREW TUCKEY, who was deputy chairman of Barings at the time of the £830 million crash, yesterday confirmed that he would sever his controversial link with ING, the Dutch owner of the merchant bank, at the end of the month.

Mr Tuckey, together with Peter Baring, his chairman, resigned from Barings shortly after the collapse. Almost immediately afterwards, he was taken on again as a corporate finance consultant to advise on such deals as the £6 billion takeover of TSB Group by Lloyds Bank.

Earlier this year, Mr Tuckey agreed with the Securities and Futures Authority, the watchdog for brokers and futures traders, to restrict his City role to the "foreseeable future" to corporate finance.

Shortly after Mr Tuckey, 52, retired on an annual pension of about £120,000.



Tuckey: consultant

Better marks for M&S

By Clare Stewart

FIRST-QUARTER UK sales at Marks & Spencer rose by 8.6 per cent, while international sales increased by 10.7 per cent. Sir Richard Greenbury, Marks & Spencer's chairman, told shareholders yesterday at the group's annual meeting: "There are now signs that the consumer is finally coming out of the trenches."

Staff, particularly those affected by the Manchester bombing, which severely damaged its store in the Arndale Centre. He confirmed that Marks & Spencer hoped to open two temporary stores in the City in time for Christmas.

When questioned on ladieswear marketing, Sir Richard acknowledged that mistakes were made last year. He said: "We were possibly too fashion-led in the spring."

Somerfield chiefs see huge bonuses

By Sarah Cunningham

SOMERFIELD, the supermarket chain which is to raise £540 million to £570 million from its flotation, will pay executive directors as much as £13 million in bonuses if the sale is a success.

David Simons, chief executive, is set to receive a bonus of between £5.06 million and £5.66 million before tax. Directors will also receive share options, worth approximately four times their salary, exercisable after three years. A further long-term incentive plan, worth the equivalent of five times each director's salary in shares, is linked to earnings-per-share growth.

Andrew Thomas, executive chairman of the Greenalls group, will become non-executive chairman of Somerfield on its listing.

However, the company suffered a blow yesterday when the latest AGB survey of food retailers showed Somerfield's market share declining in June to its lowest level in two years.

Mr Simons countered that "current trading is ahead of expectations and like-for-like sales are improving."

The proceeds from the flotation will pay off £192 million of Somerfield Holdings debts and, after expenses, up to £300 million of the debts of the Isosceles group, of which Somerfield is a part. This will cover all of Isosceles's senior debt and a small part of its £500 million junior debt. All connections with Isosceles will be severed after the flotation.

Somerfield also announced that it is to sign a contract with RII Oil to set up mini-supermarkets on its petrol station forecourts. It will start with a trial at up to five stations.

The company intends to offer 300 million shares at between 180p and 190p. The final price will be set on July 26. Dealings begin on August 2.

Tempus, page 26

SIB may remove trust net

By Marianne Curphey

THE Securities and Investments Board is considering plans to scrap the 14-day "cooling-off period" for unit trusts, which allows investors to cancel their policy up to a fortnight after signing up.

The SIB is examining whether "cooling off" is still an important piece of consumer protection, or whether new regulations introduced by the Financial Services Act make it unnecessary for investors in a unit trust or a unit trust personal equity plan (Pepp).

The SIB says that it has anecdotal evidence that only a small proportion of investors in unit trusts or Pepps exercise their right to withdraw during the cooling-off period. A much higher proportion cancel their pension or life policy, especially those have signed up for single premium life insurance.

The SIB review will consider whether benefits for the consumer of the period are worth the cost to the investment house. It has been prompted by the advent of Ocies - open-ended investment companies, with no cooling-off period.

The unit trust industry is thought to favour abolishing the cooling-off period because it feels that the cost of informing investors outweighs the benefits. An alternative would be to retain it, but put information about the right to cancel in the main "key features" document, rather than mailing separate notices.

City Diary, page 27

Pennington, page 25

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100	3749.0	(-18.8)
Yield	4.05%	
FT-SE All Share	1867.82	(-7.19)
Nasdaq	21892.58	(+113.64)
Dow Jones	9529.77	(-73.85)
S&P Composite	647.79	(-8.27)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	8 3/4%	(8 3/4%)
Yield	7.08%	(7.08%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Libor long gilt	10 1/4%	(10 1/4%)

STERLING

New York	1.5880	(1.5825)
London	1.5887	(1.5835)
DM	2.3673	(2.3655)
FF	8.0104	(8.0154)
SP	1.2569	(1.2613)
Yen	171.49	(171.07)
S index	88.5	(88.5)

US DOLLAR

London	1.5812	(1.5835)
DM	8.1480	(8.1655)
SP	1.2569	(1.2613)
Yen	110.20	(110.40)
S index	87.4	(87.4)

Tokyo close Yen 110.38

NORTH AMERICA

Brent 15-day (Sep)	\$19.35	(\$19.10)
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COMMODITIES

London close	\$383.45	(\$382.00)
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* denotes midday trading price

Breaking ranks

The Engineering Employers Federation yesterday broke ranks with other employers groups by suggesting that careful implementation of the European directive on the 48 hour working week could minimise its impact to the point where it had little, if any, effect on most UK companies. Page 24

Forced sale

Stock, the construction company, will sell six brick factories after threats from Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, to refer the company's proposed acquisition of Redland's brick business to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Page 28

High-tech nerves send Wall Street tumbling

By George Sivell

WALL STREET fell heavily last night. An hour before the close the Dow Jones industrial average was registering a fall of around 120 points. The plunge continued despite activation earlier in the day of the New York Stock Exchange limits on computer-driven trading, usually triggered by a fall in the Dow of more than 50 points.

Dealers attributed the fall to a sell off by investors of technology stocks. Managed healthcare stocks were also particularly weak. Main source of disappointment was an announcement from Hewlett Packard. Before the start of trading the computer and electronics company warned the market of slower order growth. Hewlett Packard also said it was getting out of the manufacture of disc drives and would be taking a pre-tax charge of \$150 million to cover the cost.

Hewlett Packard's bad news came just two days after Motorola Inc reported a steeper than expected 32 per cent decline in second-quarter profits. In recent weeks, a number of other high-technology companies have warned investors of a slowdown in profits and revenues as a result of weaker demand for personal computers or oversupply of computer chips.

The warnings have Wall Street on alert for the forthcoming results season. "The next few months could be really bumpy," said Douglas Cliggott, senior investment strategist at Merrill Lynch. "Up until a few weeks ago even a couple of months ago earnings expectations were so positive."

Another broker said that from now on "rallies on Wall Street should be regarded as corrections in a downward market as people raise cash."

Traders on Wall Street are also becoming increasingly nervous that the Federal Reserve will soon have to raise interest rates. Buoyant American employment figures, announced on Friday last week, caused a fall of more than 100 points. The figures were announced within 48 hours of a decision by the Federal Open Market Committee to leave interest rates unchanged. Economists maintain that if the committee members had seen the jobs figures then they would have been forced into raising interest rates.

Stock market report, page 26

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EEF shrugs off fears of 48-hour week ruling

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE adverse impact of a maximum 48-hour working week can be minimised if the Government adopts the most flexible options of the European directive on working time, engineering employers said yesterday.

The EEF, which represents employers in the engineering sector, broke ranks with other employers' bodies yesterday when it suggested that careful implementation of the directive could minimise its impact to the point where it had little, if any, effect on most UK companies. The EEF, however, maintains its opposition to the directive.

Reflecting on the practical reality of the planned European directive, rather than the political rhetoric surrounding it, goes a long way to undercut the opposition to the move from the Government and especially from Conservative Euro-sceptics.

The Government is bracing itself for a forthcoming European Court judgement on the UK's legal appeal against the directive, which sets a 48-hour limit on the working week as well as laying down mandatory rest periods. Ministers believe the judgment, still possible later this month, but more likely to be delivered in September, will reject the UK's case.

Conservative Euro-sceptics, angry at what they see as a further extension of Europe's powers over Britain, are urging the Government to reject it, though government and independent legal advice suggests ministers have no ability to do so.

Regardless of the outcome of the court case, the directive will come into force on November 23, but employers believe that although the Government is likely to issue a consultation paper on it shortly after the court judgment, it will not become law in Britain this side of a general election, and probably not until early 1999.

Peter Reid, EEF European affairs co-ordinator, said that the directive offered considerable flexibilities for member states, including the UK. "The directive gives the UK Government scope to introduce it in a flexible way to bring in only the most minor changes in working practices," he said.

EEF leaders support the Government's legal appeal against the directive as a statement of principle, but believe Britain could better avoid the effects of the directive by preparing legislation to put it into UK law, taking full advantage of the available flexibilities.

Previous EEF advice to companies implementing the European works council directive has led to political criticism of the federation, but Mr Reid dismissed the idea that its new statement on working time would lead to similar attacks.



David Green, chairman, said gains were made despite difficult conditions

Housing recovery lifts Colefax

By Clare Stewart

RECOVERY in the housing market is lifting sales for Colefax and Fowler, the upmarket furnishings and fabrics group.

In the year to April, pre-tax profits rose by 20 per cent to £1.94 million on turnover of £38.9 million. Earnings rose by 24 per cent to 5.7p while a final dividend of 1.15p takes the total for the year to 1.9p.

The improvement came in spite of "difficult trading conditions in most major markets," David Green, the chairman, said, in the US, which accounts for 46 per cent of product sales such as wallpaper and fabrics, sales showed only a small increase.

UK sales were flat in difficult conditions although there is optimism that the improv-

ing housing market will "have a positive impact", Mr Green said. Sales in Europe grew by 12 per cent.

With a further cut in borrowings, which had reduced gearing to 16 per cent, and refocusing of the divisions, Colefax and Fowler "is in a strong position to expand profitably", he added. The shares closed up 3p, at 74p.

Life agent faces tax trial in Germany

By Robert Miller and Oliver August

A FORMER German agent of Life, a company said to have had close ties with Titan, the international money-making scheme, is to be prosecuted over allegations of tax evasion.

Inquiries by The Times have established that the German authorities will go to court next month in Verden, near Bremen, with a case against Peter Appel over his involvement with Life, which subsequently changed its name to Jump before surfacing in the UK as Titan last September.

Herr Appel faces one charge of tax evasion and a second one for illegally operating a "progression game", the German term for pyramid-selling.

The old Titan scheme, which last month was ruled to be an "illegal lottery" in the High Court and one which the Department of Trade and Industry is trying to close down, has been replaced in the past week with a new scheme known as Titan International, an American limited liability company registered in Wyoming.

As with the old Titan scheme, UK members are asked to hand over a joining fee of £3,000 and this is recouped by signing up four or five other new members.

Life started to operate in southern Germany, usually in small rural communities, in the early 1990s. After the flow of new members stopped, many members felt deceived because they couldn't recoup their entry fee. Hundreds of them went to the police and tried to sue the organisers.

One case in particular caused a public outcry. A group of deaf people was persuaded to join Life after having the scheme explained to them through an interpreter. It later emerged that the information conveyed via sign language was wrong and that several of these disabled people had to sell personal belongings to fund their Life membership.

Asked whether the German authorities thought that pyramid selling schemes were illegal, a spokesman for the court said yesterday: "If we didn't think it was illegal we wouldn't try to lock up the organisers."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Unions join attack on TransCo curbs

THERE could be more deaths from gas explosions and a greater risk to the public as a result of price controls planned by the regulator, unions representing workers at TransCo, the British Gas's pipelines division, said yesterday. In a joint submission to Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, the GMB, GMA, TGWU and Unison attacked planned curbs for "misleading the public by not pointing out that the price for their gas bills was an increasing risk of dangerous incidents". They said: "No-one will guarantee that the regulator's proposals will not lead to greater risk to the public and the possibility of a greater number of deaths from gas explosions and their aftermath." Ms Spottiswoode has said that price curbs on TransCo could deliver immediate bill cuts of £30 a year. But the regulator and British Gas are locked in a bitter dispute over the calculations. British Gas has said it would have to cut half its staff - 10,000 jobs - to meet her targets and that the curbs would place a strain on safety obligations.

Green light for CrestCo

THE Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief City watchdog, yesterday gave the formal green light for paperless share trading on the London Stock Exchange to go ahead on Monday as planned. The SIB said it had "approved" CrestCo as operator of the computer system that will enable the £25 million Crest project to provide a fully electronic means of transferring ownership of shares. The watchdog added that "investors can choose to retain their paper certificates if they wish". The SIB has also recognised CrestCo Limited as a Recognised Clearing House.

Peel assets soar

PEEL HOLDINGS, the property investment and port services company, reported a significant rise in net assets to 420p a share from 323p at March 31. Profits advanced to £12.6 million before tax from £11.5 million on turnover that rose to £75.2 million from £70.35 million. Earnings were only marginally higher at 8.45p a share, compared with 8.4p. A final dividend of 4.5p a share lifts the total to 6.5p from 5.5p. The shares rose 14p to 413p yesterday. The UK investment portfolio was valued externally at £53.22 million, giving rise to an underlying surplus of £85.78 million.

Macallan gives in

THE board of Macallan-Glenlivet, the whisky producer, is reluctantly advising shareholders to accept a £180 million hostile takeover bid from Highland Distilleries, the maker of The Famous Grouse. Highland has pooled its 26 per cent stake in Macallan with the 25 per cent stake held by Japanese distiller Suntory. For the 49 per cent minority, Highland is offering 152.5p per share and 523.4p per convertible share. Once the deal goes through, Highland will end up with 75 per cent of Macallan and Suntory will own the remaining 25 per cent.

Caledonian launch

CALEDONIAN Media Communications, the Scottish cable company, said yesterday it is to launch a digital wireless voice and data communications system in Glasgow, similar to the one set up by Ionica in Cambridge, late this year and intends to offer the service in other areas, including Aberdeen. The company lost £812,000 in the year to end-March (£168,000). Most of the loss came from Coventry Cable, sold to KPN, the Dutch phone company, in April for £23.7 million. Caledonian is to change its name to Atlantic Telecom Group.

PhoneLink losses grow

PHONELINK, the electronic information company best known for its Tel-Me business software, reported a pre-tax loss of £6.7 million, or 17.3p per share, in the year to March 31, against a loss of £3.7 million last time. Turnover more than doubled to £4.4 million. The company said the loss was expected and was the result of continued investment in marketing and its Tel-Me products, now used in 6,000 businesses. It said it expects to launch an "electronic commerce platform", allowing goods to be traded on Tel-Me, by the end of the year.

New arrivals at Nynex

NYNEX CABLECOMMS, the second-largest cable company, yesterday appointed Sir Bryan Carsberg and Mel Meskin to its board of directors. Sir Bryan is secretary-general of the International Accounting Standards Committee and former director-general of both Fair Trading and Telecommunications. Mr Meskin is Nynex's new vice-president of financial operations. Their appointments come at a time of rapid growth among the top cable companies, whose strategy is to compete with BT for telephony customers.

Barratt sales rise 12%

BARRATT DEVELOPMENTS, the housebuilder, yesterday reported a 12 per cent rise in sales of new homes to more than 7,000 in the year to June 30. These figures were released as the company created three new divisions as part of a plan to further increase output to 11,000 homes a year. Frank Eaton, chief executive, said new house sales had increased by more than 40 per cent since 1993 in spite of difficult market conditions. Barratt now has 21 housebuilding divisions in the United Kingdom.

GGT at six-year high

GGT GROUP, the international advertising agency and marketing services group formerly known as Gold Greenlees Tron, lifted pre-tax profits to £5.6 million from £4.5 million in the 12 months to April 30. The increase took GGT's profits to their highest level for six years. Earnings rose to 14.4p a share from 12.5p. There is a final dividend of 3.7p a share, lifting the total to 5.8p from 5.3p. The group operating margin improved to 10.2 per cent from 9.5 per cent.

Mandela helps to launch fund for African growth

By Jon Ashworth

NELSON MANDELA joined Michael Heseltine at Marlborough House, London, yesterday at the launch of an investment fund aimed at channeling millions of dollars to unquoted companies in Africa. The Commonwealth Africa Investment Fund (Comafin), backed by an initial \$52.5 million, will target ventures in sub-Saharan Africa.

Comafin is backed by the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC), Britain's overseas development finance institution. CDC operates in 50 countries, channeling funds into poorer nations, particularly those focusing on economic reforms. At the end of 1995, CDC had investments of £1.5 billion in 369 enterprises.

The Africa fund is the first in a planned series of regional investment funds to fall under the Commonwealth Private Investment Initiative, a pan-Commonwealth venture set up by finance ministers last year. Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, said Comafin's aim

was to channel investment into new and emerging markets, and to stimulate small and medium-sized companies.

Chief Anyaoku said: "Comafin is being launched at a timely juncture. Many Commonwealth African countries have implemented far-reaching economic reforms. A number of them are experiencing an improvement in their economic prospects. The courageous efforts of these countries need to be matched by initiatives to boost investment in their economies."

Each of the 19 Commonwealth countries in Africa will be eligible, subject to a maximum country limit of 25 per cent. South Africa will not be excluded despite its comparative wealth. No more than \$6 million will be invested in any particular venture.

CDC has invested \$25 million in Comafin. Lord Cairns, chairman of CDC, said investments would be monitored by CDC's regional offices. Comafin will be managed by a CDC subsidiary in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Caledonian postpones float

By Eric Reguly

CALEDONIAN Publishing, owner of The Herald and the Evening Times newspapers in Scotland, postponed its flotation yesterday after receiving unsolicited bids from Scottish Television and at least one other potential purchaser. It said the bids valued the company at about £120 million.

Scottish Television, the ITV company of which Gus Macdonald is chairman and which is 20 per cent owned by the Mirror Group, publisher of the Daily Record in Scotland, said: "In discussions over recent months, the managements of Scottish and Caledonian have identified many areas in which the quality and the profitability of their businesses could be enhanced through combining the two

companies." Caledonian's flotation was expected to value the company between £100 million and £110 million and a bidding war could take it significantly higher.

Analysts and newspaper executives said that other potential bidders might include the Barclay brothers, who own The Scotsman and The European, the Daily Mail & General Trust, and Trinity International Holdings.

Newscast, the ambitious regional newspaper group that has submitted an offer for Pearson's Westminster Press division, has ruled itself out of the running. It believes that the outlook for regional newspapers in Scotland is not positive because many of the national dailies, including The



Macdonald: discussions

Times, are trying to build up circulation there.

Caledonian was created in 1992 when its management bought it from Lonhro. The company had a rough start because it found it had to

invest in new technology and reduce costs. About 150 of its 750 employees were made redundant.

The worst appears to be over and Caledonian, which is half-owned by Robert Fleming and Co, is forecasting a pre-tax profit of £4.8 million in the year to the end of September 1996, compared with pre-tax profit of £3.9 million in the previous period.

Trinity Newspapers Southern, a subsidiary of Trinity International, has agreed to buy the three free distribution South East London Mercury titles from Westminster Press, subject to regulatory approval. The three titles are the Lewisham Mercury, Greenwich Mercury and Bexley Mercury, which have a combined weekly distribution of 150,000 copies.

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□ British Energy shutdowns □ New threat to investor protection □ Mobile phone competition

Nuclear flotation goes critical

□TIMING is everything in a flotation — never more so than with British Energy. The offer closes for institutional investors today but for Sids the public offer closed on Wednesday lunchtime — hours before the company began dribbling out information about having to close down two of its generators after a crack was discovered.

Some might feel that such information would be relevant to the share applications of individuals who, without it, were so enthused about the latest, and possibly last, privatisation, that they applied for twice as many shares as had been allocated to them. The number of shares set aside for the public will now increase.

Institutions will be able to consider carefully whether news of a quarter of the nuclear power stations involved in the flotation being out of action will alter the sentiment and therefore the price when dealing start on Monday and then decide whether to buy or not. Poor Sid can only sit and sweat it out.

The closures, at Hinkley Point B and Hunterston B, follow the shutdown of sister reactors and mean that those two stations are producing no electricity. Analysts estimate that the two-week planned closures could trim profits by £10 million. If further cracks are found the reactors

could be down for another four to six weeks.

British Energy profits are highly sensitive to output. A 1.6 per cent cut in output over the year costs about £20 million on the profits. Institutional investors will note that the embarrassing closures of Hinkley Point B and Hunterston B are reminiscent of the shutdowns at Dungeness B and Heysham 1 last year.

These stations, which plunged into difficulty during last year's peak demand for electricity, had the rival power generators rubbing their hands with glee. Then there were problems last year at Hartlepool after a transformer was damaged and pipework needed repairs. It seems nuclear generation is a precarious business. One hairline crack and the whole thing shuts down. The decision of when to release the information was apparently taken on Tuesday before the public offer closed. The company might argue that there was no point rushing out the information in the morning when all the small investor share applications were in the post. Besides that they had to get the information

vetted. In the meantime we had heard from the Government's advisers that the public offer had been a roaring success.

Many private investors were scooped by the second sale of PowerGen and National Power shares last year when first dealings in the newly issued shares coincided with the surprise re-opening of the electricity price review by the industry regulator.

That was surprise to the investors, although those conducting the sale knew a review was imminent. Investors deserve more light and less heat.

Cooling off gets cold shoulder

□The Securities and Investments Board's suggestion that ordinary investors are so well protected by financial services legislation that they have no need of a cooling off period, in which they can back out of the deal, is rather like a driver assuring passengers that seatbelts are unnecessary because



the car's brakes are good. Investment houses should know better than to start tampering with tried and tested consumer protection. The shouts of outrage over the pensions mis-selling scandal have barely stopped ringing in the industry's ears and yet now it is looking at dismantling a scheme that has worked well since its introduction in 1988.

Cooling off takes two forms: cancellation, where SIB's current rules give investors a right to cancel the contract within 14 days; and delayed entry, where investors' applications to enter into a unit trust are not accepted for a specified period (usually seven days) before the contract is made.

With cancellation, if the market falls between the day the investor signs up and the day he cancels he will have the net difference returned. In the case of delayed entry, applications are frozen for the seven day period, which means that investors are not exposed to rises or falls in the market even if they would prefer their money invested at once. This is said to annoy customers who are buying into a rising market and want to get their hands on the stock right away. But in some circumstances it can save them money. Should the market dive during the waiting period, investors are allowed to withdraw their application and expect to have the full amount returned.

This, of course, is far more expensive for the industry, and with the UK stock market looking overheated, getting rid of such a commitment could look very attractive and might save it a considerable sum.

The real benefit for the investment companies of scrapping the current scheme is that it saves them the administration cost of sorting out withdrawals and sending out notices reminding

customers of their right to cancel. However, as usual, any savings are unlikely to trickle down to the consumer.

Change of colours

□A NEW campaign from Orange to deal straight with customers begs the question: How were they dealing with customers before?

The implication is that mobile phone companies have been bombarding hapless subscribers with hidden costs, incomprehensible tariff packages and generally lousy service. To no one's surprise, Orange's apparent desire to expose the competition came the day after its victory over Vodafone in the High Court.

Vodafone had issued a writ against Orange, alleging malicious falsehood, after Orange bombarded the mobile phone market with advertisements claiming that its service on average was £20 cheaper per month. The judge dismissed

Vodafone's allegations as "hopeless" and scolded the company for accusing three Orange witnesses of perjury.

Coming so close after its court victory, Orange's "straight dealing" campaign smacks of righteous indignation and could be dismissed as self-serving. True, Vodafone lost a case that it probably now regrets having launched.

But, for better or for worse, conducting warfare in the courts is how business is done today. In America, companies issue writs like so much confetti and the legal departments of many large companies are treated as profit centres.

The practice is becoming more prevalent in Britain although Orange, in the long term, may well lose as many cases as it wins.

Lloyds countdown

□LLOYDS/TSB has two weeks to sort out the succession in time for its interim results. Sir Brian Pittman, the chief executive who agreed to postpone retirement until December, is expected to take over from Sir Robin Ibbot as chairman.

Sir Robin is 70 and cannot stay much longer without a shareholder's meeting. A new chief executive is needed. To delay longer smacks of indecision.

Flat GUS profits send shares into reverse

BY CLARE STEWART

SHARES of Great Universal Stores, the home shopping-to-finance group, fell heavily again yesterday after it reported disappointing year-end results and flat figures from current trading.

The shares fell 35p to 637p after GUS reported a modest 3.25 per cent rise in profits to £58.1 million before tax for the year to the end of March.

GUS surprised the City in May by warning that profits would fail to match expectations as a result of problems with its core catalogue business.

Although investors again expressed disappointment yesterday, the latest results mark GUS's 48th consecutive year of profit increases.

Turnover rose to £2.75

billion, while earnings increased from 36.9p to 38.4p. Total dividend for the year is 16.5p compared with 15p in 1995.

Home shopping is GUS's largest division, including the Kays, Great Universal, Choice and Marshall Ward catalogues. While UK sales slipped, turnover in Europe was up by 5 per cent.

Deputy chairman Richard Pugh, said: "Hot summer weather last year upset the buying pattern in the spring and summer, and in the autumn people were not ordering winter clothes."

The high cost of paper and packaging also had an impact last year, though, said Mr Pugh: "We expect this will plateau this year." Trading

continues to be difficult. Results in the first two months of the current year "were somewhat less than last year."

Finance and business information activities lifted pre-tax profits by 9.5 per cent to £154.4 million, while Burberrys and Scotch House, GUS's retail and export manufacturing arm, lifted profits by 16.7 per cent to £70.3 million.

Strong demand boosted exports and royalty income from licensing of the Burberrys brand also showed "solid growth". Burberrys has 55 shops worldwide and plans to open a further four this year at sites ranging from Frankfurt to Hawaii.

Despite an encouraging start to the current year seen in its business and finance

division, as well as Burberrys, analysts in the City remain cautious on the outcome for the year and have cut their profit forecasts to around £600 million.

There was also disappointment that cash-rich GUS, with just under £1 billion in the bank, made no hints as to a share buyback, or special dividend payout.

With the arrival in September of Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale as the new chairman of GUS, the City is expecting a shakeup at the group that could see a number of businesses floated or sold off.

One analyst commented: "A strategic review is inevitable."

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Goode news drives a market rise

BY FRASER NELSON

SHARES of Goode Durrant, the vehicle and cabin hire business, leapt 24p to 412p as it achieved record pre-tax profits of £21.3 million in the year to April 30, a rise of 50 per cent.

Northgate, its vehicle hire subsidiary, lifted its operating profit 23 per cent to £18.1 million after the group added 3,800 new vehicles to its fleet, bringing its nationwide total to 12,900. The company attributed the demand to the success of its Flexible Rental scheme.

The company is planning to grow by opening more greenfield sites and making bolt-on acquisitions. Group revenue grew by 26 per cent to £105 million. The final dividend was 5.8p, making a total of 84p (7.2p). Earnings rose 4.9p to 26p per share.

First Choice sales less than expected

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

FIRST CHOICE has given warning that holiday sales in May and June have been weaker than expected and that it is "still too early" to say whether the industry has recovered from last year's slump.

Francis Baron, group chief executive, said that profits depended on how well supply and demand were matched in July and August. However, there was unlikely to be discounting as heavy as that seen at the end of last summer, when three million people bought last-minute cheap deals. "This year will be one of consolidation, with substantial increases in profitability dependent on the tightness of supply and demand in peak season," Mr Baron said.

First Choice, the UK's third-largest tour operator, made a pre-tax loss in the six months

to April 30 of £23.4 million (1995: £23.8 million) on turnover of £386 million (1995: £315 million).

Holiday companies tend to make a loss in the first half of the year and profits after the peak summer season.

Mr Baron said: "Whilst there have been encouraging signs that margins and load factors will be better this summer compared to last year, we remain cautious about the final outcome for the year as May and June were affected by excess capacity, with discounts higher than expected."

Industry estimates put unsold holidays at 2.2 million. Mr Baron said that he believes that there are between 1.5 million and 2 million left to shift.

The interim dividend of 1.4p per share is maintained.

Tempos, page 26

Car dealer anticipates bumper sales

BY JASON NESSE

DC Cook, the car dealer based in South Yorkshire, has seen a 25 per cent increase on August orders compared with the same month last year, and says the new registrations season could be the best in recent memory.

Announcing a 21 per cent increase in full-year pre-tax profits to £5.03 million, Derek Cook, the chairman, said the group wants to add six more franchises to its 21. Earnings per share last year rose 19 per cent, to 8.16p, and a final dividend of 1.45p makes a total of 2.1p, up 40 per cent.

DC Cook has recovered from problems in the early 1990s. In 1994-95 profits doubled and earnings are up 18-fold since 1992-93.

Electricity users to share cost of transmission losses

ELECTRICITY consumers in areas far from power stations will face higher bills after a ruling by the industry regulator.

The South West of England will be worse affected, although London and central southeast areas will also be hit after Stephen Littlechild decided that the cost of electricity lost in transmission should be split between generators and regional suppliers.

At present the losses are borne by all parties, regardless of the location of power stations. Customers of South Western Electricity, whose area covers Cornwall and Devon, are likely to see a £3 a year increase in their bills next year. This is the same amount by which their bills were cut this year.

Companies based in the North and the Midlands, where more power stations have grown around the coalfields, will be at an advantage. London Electricity said: "We are disappointed that Oftec didn't take the opportunity to put the cost solely on generators. Generators have a choice in where they site, but customers don't."

Professor Littlechild said the recommendations would provide clear signals for the location of both generation and demand whilst at the same time giving generators and customers time to adapt.



Stephen Littlechild sees clear signals in his ruling

PFI rules to be eased in response to criticisms

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government looks set to ease its beleaguered Private Finance Initiative by relaxing a rule that insists all proposed capital spending projects should go through the PFI.

Treasury officials are indicating to business leaders that they no longer see the need for every proposed spending project to be examined to see if it can be funded by the PFI.

Instead, smaller projects will no longer have to take this route automatically, though they may still attract PFI funding. The Government is considering what threshold to apply, with business proposing £10 million per project.

The expected move is in response to criticisms from business of the PFI being too slow and too bureaucratic. Yesterday, the Confederation of British Industry attacked the PFI after a six-month examination of its operations. It said business was frustrated by the "waste of resources and slow progress".

Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, said: "Unless the PFI is better managed, it could fail to deliver the benefits available and fall short of the targets set, delaying key infrastructure projects."

Labour cries foul over Energy float

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

LABOUR yesterday said it suspected "organised deceit on a substantial scale" after the closure of two of British Energy's eight power stations was disclosed just hours after the end of the public offer of the company's shares (See Pennington, this page).

Margaret Beckett, Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, demanded a ministerial statement to reveal when the company first became aware of the problems that led to the closure of two reactors on Tuesday night — hours before the public offer ended at noon on Wednesday. She said she also wanted to know what consultations took place between British Energy and trade and industry ministers and what talks were held on the timing of

the announcements. She said: "Until these questions are answered, what we suspect is organised deceit on a substantial scale."

British Energy said there had been no point rushing out the statement on Wednesday morning because public share applications would already have been in the post. A spokesman said that the closures, set for two weeks, could stretch into two months if cracks are located. British Energy announced the closure of one reactor at Hinkley Point B in Somerset after a crack was found in a pipe. The company has also closed down another identical reactor at Hinkley Point B and two identical reactors at Hunterston B in Ayrshire as a precaution.

Analysts said that the closures emphasised the risky investment nature of nuclear generation. Philip Green, of Goldman Sachs, said: "This highlights the vulnerability of British Energy. Institutions will be able to assess the closures which come after the problems at Dungeness and Heysham last year."

It is expected that a two-week closure of Hinkley and Hunterston will trim between £5 million and £10 million from profits. The Government's advisers yesterday said that the public offer was two and a half times subscribed after more than 600,000 applied for shares. The allocation to the public is to be raised to more than 40 per cent of the shares in the retail tranche which is set for 50 per cent.

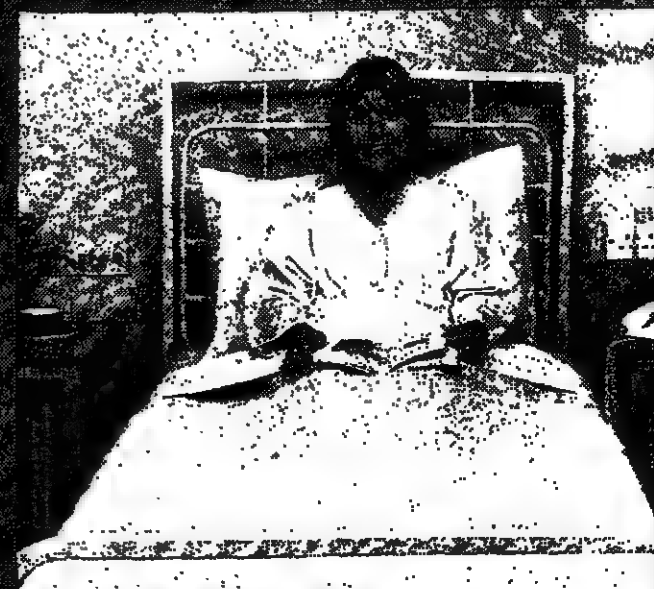
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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

High street stores send investors mixed signals

CONSUMERS are a fickle bunch, which may account for the mixed signals emanating from Britain's high street stores at the moment.

On Wednesday Dixons, the electrical goods retailer, grabbed the City's attention with impressive full-year profits and news of a sharp rise in sales at the start of the current year. Yesterday Dixons continued to build on this week's lead with a rise of 3p to 533p. It follows hard on the heels of a near 30 per cent jump in sales at the John Lewis Partnership.

By contrast there were few signs of improvement at Great Universal Stores, the Kays and Berrys retailer, which ended the session 35p down at 637p after weighing in with pre-tax profits of £581 million. This was in line with expectations after the group issued a profits warning back in May. The company added to the gloom by announcing that the profits after two months of the current year were broadly flat, with home shopping sales down on last year.

BZW wasted little time by cutting its forecast for the current year by £30 million to £600 million. Other brokers could hardly contain their disappointment at the absence of a special dividend, or share buyback programme designed to make use of the group's cash mountain, which at the last count was calculated at £1.2 billion.

Marks & Spencer closed 3p lower at 484p, with the market seemingly unimpressed by news of an 8.6 per cent increase in sales during the first quarter. Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that there were signs of a consumer revival.

Kingfisher eased 3p to 638p after giving a rundown to brokers earlier in the week. BG Bank, the broking arm of Bkubank, has decided to raise its forecast for 1997 and 1998 by £30 million to £350 million and £390 million respectively. Lawrence Peierman at BG Bank says Kingfisher is the best positioned company in the sector to benefit from the recovery in the housing market and a return of the feel-good factor.

A positive performance by Wall Street overnight and another fall in the rate of inflation failed to inject life into equities, which closed near their low point of the day. The fall in the retail prices



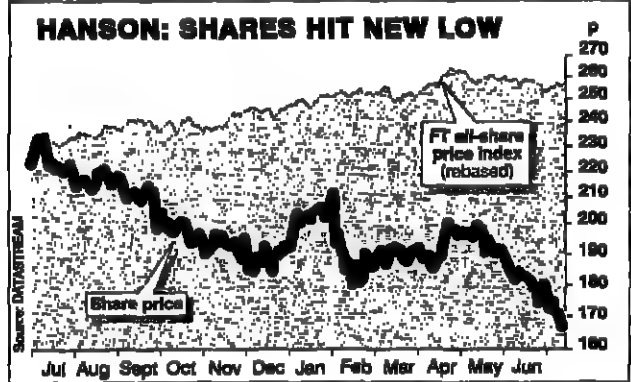
Feel-good hopes for Woolworths owner Kingfisher

index to its lowest level since December 1993 raised hopes that there might be scope for another cut in base rates. This renewed optimism failed to be translated into buying orders, with the FT-SE 100 index closing down 16.3 points at 3,749.0 as fewer than 700 million shares were traded. The near 100-point plunge in the Dow Jones average during

early trading came too late to make any impact on London. Over on the grey market, British Energy was coming under the hammer with the price of the partly-paid shares dropping 6p to 104p on news that two of its reactors had been shut down for examination. The public offer closed yesterday oversubscribed, with dealings due to begin on Monday on a when-issued

basis. The shares have been offered privately at 100p. Hanson's attempts at enhancing shareholder value by splitting the group into four has failed to impress institutional investors and that continues to be reflected in the share price. After underperforming the market all year it retreated 2p to a new low of 167p in heavy turnover

that saw almost 33 million shares change hands. That compares with the 212p it stood at earlier this year. Lucas Industries firmed 5p to 225p amid faint hopes that GKN may step into the breach and make a bid if its proposed acquisition of Varty Corporation in the US falls through. GKN continued to benefit from this week's buy recommendation from Merrill



Jul Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

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Lynch, the broker, with a rise of 8p to £10.41.

Ten operators face an uphill struggle in the package holiday market judging by interim figures from First Choice revealing a slightly reduced loss of £23.4 million. The shares fell 9p to 68p after the group warned there was still excess capacity and discounting during May and June. Francis Baron, chief executive, is optimistic about the important summer season.

Stanley Leisure, the betting and gaming group, fell 13p to 489p on further reflection of Wednesday's profits setback.

Better than expected full-year figures were rewarded with a leap of 22p to 410p at Goode Durrant, the transport group. It says it has made a success of upgrading their full-year forecasts.

Specialists marked time at 17p after plunging into the red in the first six months with pre-tax losses of £744,000, compared with a profit of £6.5 million last time. The retail optician blamed the setback on difficult trading and an exceptional charge. Once again there is no dividend.

News of increased losses left Caledonian Media Services 11p cheaper at 24p and Phoneline 25p off at 152p, while Albion's reduced losses were good for a 4p on the shares at 61p.

GILT-EDGED: The market took the news of the latest drop in inflation in its stride. Prices shrugged off their early lethargy to finish firmer on the day, helped by a revival in US treasury bonds.

The Bank of England felt confident enough to issue three further tranches of stock. The tapets included £150 million of Treasury Index-Linked 2½ per cent 2001, £200 million of Treasury Index-Linked 2½ per cent 2013 and £50 million of Treasury 8 per cent 2002-06 split maturity.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt firmed 1½ better at £107½ as a total of 39,000 contracts were completed.

In long, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 rose 1½ to £98½, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 firmed 1½ to £103½.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street skidded lower after profit warnings in the technology and healthcare sectors. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 73.88 points lower at 5,529.77.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 5529.77 (-73.88) S&P Composite 641.79 (-8.27)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 21892.58 (+115.04)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 10921.35 (+9.59)

Amsterdam: EOE Index 549.38 (-5.14)

Sydney: DAX 2163.9 (-17.2)

Frankfurt: DAX 2575.54 (+8.11)

Singapore: Straits 2223.13 (-7.29)

Brussels: General 9403.36 (-43.87)

Paris: CAC-40 2073.66 (-8.19)

Zurich: S&K Gen 807.70 (+1.40)

London: FT 30 2760.6 (-7.41)

FT 100 3740.0 (-16.3)

FTSE Mid 250 4343.8 (-4.5)

FTSE-100 3740.0 (-16.3)

FTSE 250 4343.8 (-4.5)

FTSE 1000 1069.0 (-0.63)

FT A All-Share 1867.02 (-1.19)

FT Non Financials 1985.0 (-7.25)

FT Financials 112.59 (-0.23)

FT Govt Secs 92.90 (-0.02)

Bargains 28601

SEAQ Volume 211.16 (+2.07)

US\$ 1.5575 (+0.0022)

German Mark 2.3675 (+0.0013)

Exchange Index 86.5 (parted)

Bank of England official base 4.00%

LECU 1.2377

CSOR 1.0749

RPI 153.0 Jun (2.1%) Jan 1987-100

RPI 152.9 Jun (2.5%) Jan 1987-100

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Kays Food n/p (12) 4

Mackie Ind n/p (275) 4

Orbit n/p (40) 43

Parco n/p (245) 18

Transat n/p (103) 18

Vardy n/p (300) 13

MAJOR CHARGES

RISES: MAID 294p (+14p)

Peel 413p (+14p)

Adam & Harvey 413p (+10p)

Capital Radio 413p (+12p)

FALLS: Phonelink 152p (-25p)

Regent Inns 215p (-15p)

Lincoln 200p (-10p)

Filtron Com 200p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 29

TEMPUS

Summer of discontent

EVERY successful flotation needs a big idea. and Somerfield is hoping to raise £570 million by selling itself as a high street supermarket. It is fashionably committed to neighbourhoods rather than out-of-town malls.

In fact, Somerfield has little choice over the location of its stores. Changes in planning mean Somerfield will not have the opportunity to build superstores. Moreover it is debatable how much growth there is in prospect for high street supermarkets. Love them or hate them, superstores attract a great many people who spend their weekends driving to and from shopping centres on the edge of town.

But there is nothing to stop the Tesco, Sainsbury and Safeway — who have never given up on the high streets — putting more money into smaller units in town. Serious

competition from the majors could pose a problem for Somerfield, which is still trying to shake off the drab Gateway image. Somerfield has worked hard to change its image, developing own-label products. Increased sales of fresh produce should lead to good margin gains, as should the introduction of sales-based ordering.

But that is unlikely to sway the sceptics. They can point to research from AGB, showing that Somerfield's share of the food retailing market slipped 0.4 per cent in June — its lowest for two years. The decline is a reminder that Somerfield — even on the high street — is locked in a war of attrition in which even the mighty Sainsbury has suffered a setback. For the food retailing tyro to obtain 180p to 190p a share, it needs to offer something special, not a declining market share.

GUS

GREAT Universal Stores is a bit like a lone elephant in a circus. The animal's size is no longer enough of a novelty to draw crowds and the public are growing tired of seeing the same tricks. After almost half a century in the ring, the elephant is still performing its act on cue but it is getting tired and forgetful and occasionally drops the ball.

GUS is stumbling in its home shopping division, not badly enough to cause a setback in group profits but investors wonder whether its entirely due to hot weather and the Lottery. Since March, home shopping sales are down on the previous year while other retailers are seeing growth.

Speculation about GUS's £1.1 billion war chest is what maintains investor interest

Shell Chemicals

FOR executives in Shell Chemicals, Wednesday provided a bruising reminder of what little regard the stock market has for their business.

Indications that an announcement was due about chemicals sent Shell Transport shares racing upwards; rumours spread that the chemicals division was to be sold. In the event, a joint venture in petroleum additives with Exxon fell far short of expectations and the shares slid back.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Sound bite for M&S

SPARE a thought for the hard-working signer for the deal at Marks & Spencer's annual meeting yesterday. When an excitable shareholder regaled the board with a bite-by-bite account of the kosher foods he could supply the retailer, the zealous signer was sent into a frightening spin. Witnessing the windmill-like effect, Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman, agreed to take a look at both the shareholder's hags and his cheesecake.

Shining Knight

WORD has it that Treasury Minister Angela Knight is outraged by those MPs who voted themselves a thumping 26 per cent pay rise. The minister was in favour of the more modest and front bench-backed 3 per cent. The saintly Knight, who more practically believes that the generous pay hike is electorally damaging, says anything in excess of the annual rate of inflation, she will donate to charity.

WITH Prince William, Roy Jenkins, and Phil Collins in mind, the Royal Bank of Scotland has designed a left-handed chequebook. Iain Robertson, the left-handed managing director of corporate and institutional banking at RBS, is said to be delighted with the chequebook that he can open using his right hand, with the counterfoils positioned on the far right.



Run out

OUTRAGE at the 3.5-mile Chase Corporate Challenge race on Wednesday night after the winner was disqualified. When Gary Staines, 33, who clocked 15 minutes 23 seconds, went to get his prize, he was told that as a part-time worker at the London Coaching Foundation, he didn't qualify. Instead, the laurels went to Jon Solly, a full-time employee at the LCF, the registered charity that sends athletes into local schools. John Barber, from Municipal Mutual Insurance, was the fastest chief executive, with 17 minutes 38 seconds. He says he was out running again the next day. "It was such a nice morning, I couldn't waste it."

Indian summer

MULTIMILLIONAIRE Nat Puri, rags-to-riches owner of Mellon Medes, the industrial group, was so upset at the Indian cricket team losing to England this week that he is offering a £50,000 incentive to the first Indian cricketer who scores 300 runs in a test match innings. Better still, the star player who then goes on to beat Brian Lara's world record of 375 runs before 2000, will receive an additional £50,000.

Six bells

ON SUNDAY evening, think of Richard Barnes, Waterford Wedgwood's group finance director. Without fail, Mr Barnes will be on the phone to Tony O'Reilly, at six o'clock, to bring his chairman up to date. And if Dr O'Reilly should be in the US or Japan, Mr Barnes still has to phone him at six o'clock local time — whatever hour it is at home.

MORAG PRESTON

Kohl takes tough line to bolster competitiveness

Janet Bush
says German
social
consensus is
under assault

Helmut Kohl, Germany's Chancellor, has embarked on no less than a cultural revolution. The latest budget, passed by the Cabinet this week in the face of fury from opposition parties, plans to cut DM25 billion — more than £10 billion — from public spending next year.

In April, a previous package of spending cuts and labour market reforms, designed to lower the proportion of spending to gross domestic product by 2 per cent in a year, was condemned by trade unionists as socially obscene and merciless. Oskar Lafontaine, leader of the Social Democrats, called it "a declaration of war on social justice."

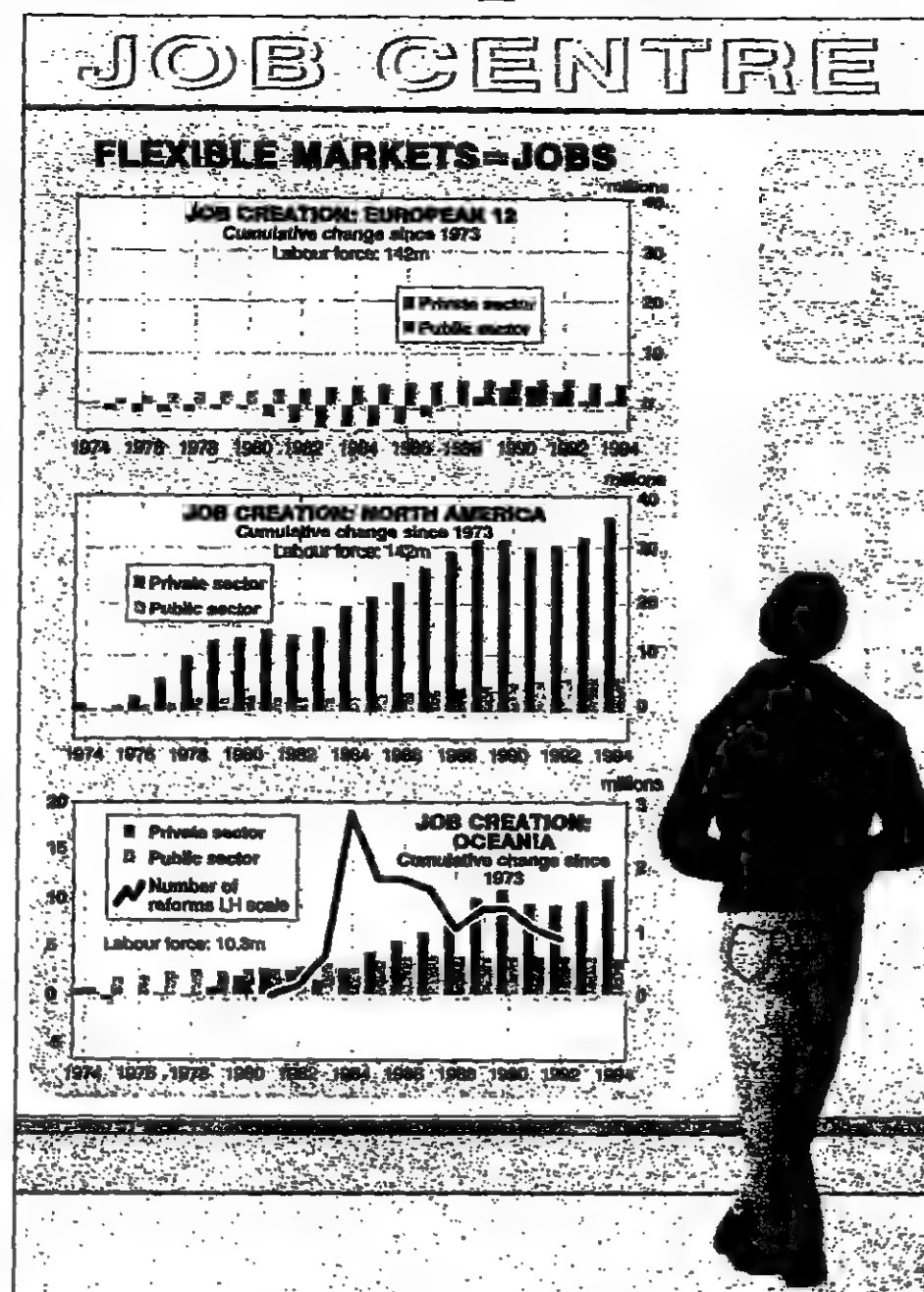
The ostensible reason for Herr Kohl's assault on Germany's prized social consensus and, in more practical terms, considerable standard of living, is the need to meet the debt and deficit criteria laid down in the Maastricht treaty and so make the grade to join a single currency.

But beyond the immediate needs of the monetary union timetable is an acute sense that Germany is losing its international competitiveness. The consensual social market system that has served Germany so well since the end of the Second World War may not be the right way to compete in the decades ahead, at least without substantial reform.

Shortly after the Berlin Wall came down and Herr Kohl defied the Bundesbank by opting for a big bang approach to unification, including one-for-one convertibility for the ostmark, Christian Watrin, an eminent German economist, said: "What Germany needs is a good dose of Thatcherism."

It is galling for the land of the *wirtschaftswunder* to be told by the World Economic Forum that you have dropped to 22nd place in its competitiveness league behind the likes of Chile, Finland, Hong Kong and ... Britain. The forum, which biases its rankings towards free market economies, is scathing about what it calls the "ill mood in Germany today as the so-called social partners debate the downsizing of the German welfare state."

The uproar over spending cuts announced this far is likely to be minor skirmish compared with what is to come if Germany is to tackle the competitiveness issue for real. In spite of the fact that planned German spending cuts appear to be huge in numerical terms, structural reforms are relatively small scale so far. They may seem laughably comfortable to a Briton after the Thatcherite revolution of the 1980s. Take as an example one



current proposal that state-subsidised curbs at health resorts are to be cut to three weeks every four years instead of four weeks every four years; or a modest liberalisation of shopping hours. Germany is famous for its *lange Samstag* — the one long Saturday in the month when shops are open for a full day.

There are, in fact, more serious reforms afoot that may have some genuine effect on Germany's ability to deal with its competitiveness blackspots. Notoriously generous unemployment benefits are to be scaled back, there is to be a reduction of sick pay from 100 per cent of wages to 80 per cent, and firms with ten or fewer employees are to be exempt from job protection guarantees. Formerly, this applied to companies with five employees or less.

But the process is at the very beginning and the competitiveness problems are considerable. Addressing a recent conference hosted by the Society of Business Economists, Klaus Wiewers, head of research at WestLB Bank, emphasised that, although Germany had probably overcome its recession, its long-term structural problems would become even more acute.

The cost of integrating eastern Germany will absorb 3 to

4 per cent of gross national product a year for many years to come, a considerable burden even for a rich economic region such as west Germany. And Germany has to absorb these costs and undertake structural reform within the painful framework of a currency that is overvalued, according to Herr Wiewers, by about 10 per cent. There is, of course, no way out of this because of Maastricht.

Herr Wiewers is blunt about the problems Germany faces. Germany has among the shortest working hours in the world and one of the lowest retirement ages in the world. Its pensioners are astonishingly well catered for. "You will see a lot of them in Mallorca for six months of the year. The rest are somewhere between Vancouver and Sydney," Herr Wiewers jokes pointedly.

A comparison of total labour costs in manufacturing shows that Germany is an extraordinarily expensive place to employ people. Costs in Japan are 75 per cent of Germany's, France 61 per cent, America 55 per cent, Britain 45 per cent, Hungary 10 per cent and Malaysia 6 per cent. And whereas in Britain 73 per cent of hourly labour costs are wages and only 27 per cent are non-wage labour

costs (in-work benefits, National Insurance contributions etc), in Germany the proportions are 55 per cent for wages and 45 per cent for non-wages. It is no mistake that Germany has an unemployment rate of 11 per cent, or 14 per cent, Herr Wiewers estimates, if those on job creation and training schemes are included, and the jobs problem is not confined to the east.

The accompanying charts, provided by John Llewellyn, chief economist at Lehman Brothers in Europe, are graphic illustrations that flexible labour markets create jobs. (The quality of jobs is another debate). Europe stands indicted against America and Oceania: Australia and New Zealand.

Both these are latter day free marketeers. New Zealand, which achieved third place in the World Economic Forum's competitiveness league this year, was much the most radical.

It opted for a big bang reform package in 1984 that swept away financial controls, lowered trade tariffs, removed subsidies, transformed the tax system and ushered in an extensive programme of privatisation. Labour market reforms came later. The Employment Contracts Act in 1991 that broke down old collective bar-

gaining and replaced it with a system in which each employer signs a contract with each employee. Unemployment peaked at 11 per cent, but then fell rapidly to just over 6 per cent now. Excluding Maoris and Pacific Islanders who still suffer proportionately higher unemployment, the jobs rate is down to 4.6 per cent. What is good news for those governments, like Germany, which want to sell reform to their electorates, is that there are genuine results. What is more worrying is that these results take a while to bite. In New Zealand, Dr Llewellyn says that it took at least five years before the policies could be seen to be working and the better part of ten years before the public accepted the fact.

There is, of course, a down side to flexibility as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is expected to point out in its *Employment Report* published next week. In America and Britain, earnings have become a lot more unequal, there may not be much compensating upward mobility for those on low wages, and there may be more social exclusion and, therefore, pressure on budgets as social safety nets suck in more resources.

This apart, it is *schadenfreude* for British critics of the social market system to write Germany off as an economic has-been. Given the astonishing task of incorporating 16 million new Germans from a collapsed command economy, it is a second *wirtschaftswunder* that the western economy has been inconvenienced rather than destabilised. And Germany, ever the realist, has accepted the need for flexibility far more than France: its budget-cutting efforts barely make a dent in real spending.

But time is short for those countries committed to a monetary union. Dr Llewellyn said: "The formation of EMU in 1999, by neutering the three main adjustment mechanisms of monetary policy, fiscal policy and the exchange rate, stands to place a greater burden on the internal adjustment mechanisms." Those who favour the single currency do so precisely because they know that countries will be forced into structural reform. The flaw in this argument is that reform will be far more difficult within the straitjacket of a single currency.

Dr Llewellyn says that major structural reform should have started five years ago and now be reaching a peak. Even if reform now takes off in earnest, the benefits could be another five years off. A monetary union that sees unemployment persist at dreadful current levels could be politically unsustainable.

Study aid gives pupils real-life business sense

Fraser Nelson reports on testing of the updated edition of *The Times 100*

Coca-Cola and Heinz have joined more than 50 companies sponsoring the 1996 edition of *The Times 100*, the national teaching aid designed to help GCSE, A-Level and GNVQ students bridge the gap between theory and practice in business studies.

The package, issued to every school and college in the UK, uses each of its sponsors as a case study to examine a key aspect of its business strategy and problem-solving. The result is an educational resource giving real-life examples to back the classroom theory.

Pupils at Woodhouse Grove School in Bradford, who tested the two new case studies, looked at Coca-Cola's decision to link itself with sporting events, and Heinz's decision to alter its marketing strategy to fend off competition from supermarket own-brand labels.

Dave Needham, lecturer in business studies education at Stirling University and one of the project's writers, said the aim was to give pupils a wider and more meaningful understanding of business, teaching them how to put their textbook knowledge of business studies and economics to practical use. "We want students to have a complete picture of the issues in business today, and by giving them examples from companies they recognise, *The Times 100* series should make lessons much easier to grasp," he said.

Colin Clare, head of business studies at Woodhouse Grove, said that real-life examples were the lifeblood of business studies, and that *The Times 100* gave information teachers could not hope to assemble individually. "It would take me ages to get information about Coca-Cola into a case study. With a library on

hand, it's possible to give students concrete examples of organisations at work." At an undergraduate level, students are often told about the "big picture", which they will see when their theoretical knowledge of economics slots in with practical experience and current affairs, creating a tangible whole. The idea behind business studies as a subject is to make the "big picture" available at school level by fusing theory and practice at a much earlier stage.

Pupils at Woodhouse Grove said that business studies did seem more "real" than other subjects. Ben Rhodes, studying for the GNVQ, said that he found the syllabus "both easier and harder" than other subjects as it required more hours of work, but it was easier to grasp.

His GNVQ, which is worth two A-Levels, is designed to be more vocational than traditional exams. Students are required to undergo work experience, and conduct independent research into companies. Pupils studying for GNVQs said that *The Times 100* was particularly useful as a compendium of business information they could use as a research tool, as well as providing illustrations to lessons.

The 530-pupil Woodhouse Grove School has a building devoted to business studies. It seeks to build links with local companies, and is looking at installing video-conferencing facilities, which they would offer to businesses in return for work placements for pupils.

Some 7,000 copies of *The Times 100*, each containing 52 case studies, were sent to schools and colleges last November. The new edition, which contains more than 45 new entries, will be sent out in the autumn.



Class act: Tom Hope, left, John MacNamara, Anna Whittle and James Darkins try out *The Times 100*

NOW YOU CAN HAVE A SLICE OF SOMERFIELD



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Unattractive spectacle of rich rewards for campaigners as names await decision time in the Lloyd's affair

From G. D. V. Glynn

Sir, As the time rapidly approaches for the names at Lloyd's to decide whether to accept or reject the R&R settlement offer, the indications are that the vast majority wish to accept.

However, before the offer can be put to the membership, it is necessary that the resolutions at the Ordinary General Meeting and the Class Meeting be held on July 15 are passed. The resolutions at the Extraordinary General Meeting called for the same day are incompatible and should be voted against by all those who support R&R. This EGM is an unnecessary diversion, serving no useful purpose, and was called by a small group of dissident action group leaders.

With the prospect of a settlement drawing near, we are now faced with the unat-

tractive spectacle of a "rush for cash" by those engaged in this particular industry. The sums involved are staggering. One chairman alone is believed to be in the running for £800,000.

I, myself, was surprised to receive within the last few days a circular containing a formula likely to produce £1 million to £1.5 million, to be shared between 11, and signed by a man to whom we have been paying £24,000 p.a. for his particular part-time job. The same individual recently wrote, with reference to the action group leaders, "what drives us is a determination to see justice done, and not personal gain."

What price altruism? Yours faithfully, G.D.V. GLYNN, Hilliersdon House, Cullompton, Devon.

Surprised by faith in MMC

From Mr Philip Rogerson

Sir, Your correspondent (Business Letters, July 3) Roger Turner (Managing Director, United Gas Company Limited), says: "Time for MMC inquiry and more radical proposals on TransCo regulation."

We are surprised that he places such faith in MMC process. In June a shippers' group, of which United Gas appears to be spokesman, stated that the "current price formula [set by OFGAS in 1994] which is based on MMC views, is flawed". Also, it stated that the [1992-93 British Gas] MMC report was not consistent.

On United Gas's proposal to establish TransCo as a separate legal subsidiary, this was debated by the House of Commons Standing Committee examining the 1995 Gas Bill and rejected by 15 votes to one, with one abstention.

Yours faithfully, PHILIP ROGERSON (Deputy Chairman), British Gas, The Adelphi, 1-11 John Adam Street, WC2.

Checking the story that a firm's figures tell

From Cyril F. Foster

Sir, When preparing the yearly accounts for my son (a sole trader), the accountant examines the company bank statements to check that the figures submitted to him are supported by the sums seen to be moving through the bank account.

Do not all accountants do

this (re Pennington's comments of July 3 on Wickes and Polly Peck) — or am I missing something? And is tax charged on the actual or imaginary profits?

Yours faithfully, C. F. FOSTER, 19 Convent Road, Windsor, Berkshire.

When bonuses based on profit and share price rises should be forfeited

From Idris R Francis

Sir, Common to the problems of Barings, Sumitomo, Wickes and others is that senior managers stood to receive substantial bonuses based on profits and share price rises.

Many tend therefore not only not to look for problems, but to turn blind eyes until too late, maximising their own

income at the expense of shareholders and creditors. This will continue unless and until the law ensures that all such profits be forfeited (at least) by individuals who knew, or should have known, the figures were suspect.

As a bystander, I find it utterly unacceptable that, for example, some Barings' em-

ployees were paid by ING bonuses based on spurious profits, while the investors received nothing. Yours faithfully, IDRIS R FRANCIS, Sunningbank, Church Lane, West Meon, Petersfield, Hampshire.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of *The Times* can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

Russians join race to rescue Fokker

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN AMSTERDAM

FOKKER, the bankrupt Dutch aircraft manufacturer, is again Europe's most courted aerospace firm as new contenders emerged to fight for its hand.

The long-awaited rescue of the company that went bankrupt on March 15 appeared to have moved much nearer after an announcement on Wednesday by Aviastionnaya Korporatsiya Yakovlev, the Russian aerospace company, that it wanted to buy Fokker this year.

The Dutch Economics Ministry yesterday said that new industrial companies had surfaced as possible rescuers, but declined to give names. Luc van Zijl, a spokesman, said: "There is interest in Fokker from international companies." He added that suitors included industrial companies outside those that have already expressed an interest.

Until now the Russians had only sporadic contact with the receivers after discussing a takeover in April, leaving the scene to three Dutch venture capitalists. Of these three executives — Jaap Rosen Jacobson, Joop van den Nieuwenhuysen and Willem van Kooten, who were all aiming to line up other investors — only Rosen Jacobson is regarded as a serious candidate.

Fokker's aircraft services and maintenance arms survived the bankruptcy and are currently under exclusive due diligence investigation by Stork, a Dutch engineering company, which is considering making an offer.

Fokker said in June that it would prolong life after death, at least until April 1997, and produce 30 planes, including a new order for six Fokker 70-seater aircraft from KLM.

Asked if it was appropriate for a bankrupt company to compete in the market by using its lower production costs, the receivers said it was the best way to preserve the company's value.



Reel time: Alan Jerome, chairman and chief executive of S. Jerome & Sons (Holdings), the West Yorkshire fabrics and yarns company, which is acquiring Nottingham Braid for £2.7 million in cash and shares.

specialises in trimmings, braiding, fringes and accessories for the lighting and decorating industries. The Derby-based company had profits of £422,000 before tax and exceptional

items on turnover of £3.1 million, in the year to March 31. Mr Jerome said that Nottingham Braid was an extremely well-run, cash generative company, and there was

scope for increasing sales overseas. Jerome is raising £2.6 million by way of a rights issue, with one new share for every two existing shares at 68p each. Jerome shares rose 1p to 82p.

MMC referral threat prompts sale by Istock

BY OLIVER AUGUST

IBSTOCK, the construction company, will sell six brick factories after threats from Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, to refer the company's proposed acquisition of Redland's brick business to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC).

Mr Lang, who was acting on advice from the Office of Fair Trading, said yesterday that competition concerns would arise from the acquisition which would result in Istock and Hanson Brick accounting for most of the UK brick supply.

Mr Lang said: "The merger is likely to lead to a significant loss of competition in the market for the supply of bricks in Great Britain." He suggested that

Istock should sell the six plants and ensure they are run as viable businesses in the period before the disposal, and sold as going concerns.

While the market is competitive at present, an increased concentration is expected to lead to higher prices when the bricks industry recovers, he added.

Istock promptly responded to this by announcing its divestments. It also said it had agreed with Redland that Redland may pay Istock up to £12.5 million, depending on the level of sale proceeds realised for the six plants.

Istock said it expects the deal to be completed by the end of this month if it is not referred. Sir Colin Hope, Istock chairman, said: "We

remain convinced that this deal is very much in shareholders' interests, even taking into account the limited divestments we have agreed to make, and the combined business will benefit from the significant opportunities to reduce overheads and operating costs."

The original deal, which was announced in April, would make Istock Britain's largest brickmaker with 34 per cent of the market.

Istock said the six factories to be sold had a combined capacity of 157 million bricks a year, about one-eighth of the capacity of the country's combined business.

The six Istock plants to be sold are Steepthorn in the South West, Eldon and

Toddhills in the North East, and South Holmwood, Chaikey and Funtun in the South East.

The Department of Trade yesterday declined to say whether Istock's response had averted a MMC referral.

It said the parties involved should make their response known to the Director-General of the Office of Fair Trading.

They are asked to explain the "appropriateness of the draft undertakings to remedy the adverse effects of the acquisition".

Representations have to be made in writing by the end of next week.

Istock shares fell 2½p to 71p yesterday. Redland shares fell 1p to 41p.

Pub chain asks OFT for new beer deal

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

INTEPRENEUR PUB COMPANY has asked the Office of Fair Trading to review its offer preventing it from maintaining a beer supply agreement beyond the end of March 1998.

The order was made in 1991 after Intreprenuer was created by pooling the estates of Grand Metropolitan and Fosters, which at that point owned Courage, the brewer.

But Fosters sold Courage to Scottish and Newcastle last year, in theory freeing Intreprenuer to strike a supply agreement with any brewer when the existing agreement with Scottish and Newcastle terminates in 1998.

Intreprenuer believes that since it is no longer tied to a brewer it should have the right, common to most of the UK's independent pub retailers, to negotiate a single supply agreement. This would allow it greater purchasing power, thus keeping its beer costs down.

Intreprenuer has also substantially reduced its estate from 10,000 outlets in 1991 to 3,000.

The City believes that the right to negotiate a single supply agreement is a vital step towards floating off the pub chain in the next couple of years.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

WTO calls time on Japan's drink tax

THE World Trade Organisation has backed the European Union in a dispute with Japan over drinks imports. The European Commission said yesterday. "The final WTO report, which will go to the dispute settlement body for a final ruling, says that Japan has been violating WTO rules by charging excess high taxes on whisky, brandy, vodka... to protect local producers," a spokesman said. "We will use it to urge the Japanese to reform their tax law."

EU sources said the finding could mean a huge boost for the European drinks industry. The Commission was expected to use it to press open other markets, notably South Korea and Chile. The EU has claimed that Japanese tax rules have effectively blocked European drinks producers from entering the lucrative Japanese market, which is dominated by local producers. According to Commission figures, whisky exports to Japan by volume fell 25 per cent between 1994 and 1995. Japan imports 8 per cent of its drinks.

Baris acquisition

BARIS Holdings, the drying and fire protection systems group, is to acquire Jordan Engineering, a privately owned business involved in decommissioning nuclear plant and equipment and the fabrication of stainless steel structures, for a maximum consideration of £2.5 million. The acquisition will be financed by a £3.75 million placing and open offer. Shares in the renamed Jordec Group will continue to be listed on the Alternative Investment Market. Yesterday, Baris reported profits of £340,000 before tax for the year to February 29 (loss of £4.17 million the previous year). Earnings were 1.8p a share (41p loss). There is again no dividend.

Shani up at half time

SHANI GROUP, the manufacturer of ladies' and children's fashion separates, coats and suits, said order books for the second half of the current financial year were at good levels. First-half trading was also strong, despite continuing pressure from retailers in terms of lead times and margins. In the six months to the end of April the company lifted profits to £1.18 million before tax, from £1.07 million, on turnover that improved to £13.8 million, from £10.9 million. Earnings were 5.4p a share, up from 5p. The interim dividend is increased to 2.37p a share, from 2.15p. The shares closed yesterday at 136p, a rise of 3p.

Funds for DB shake-up

DEUTSCHE BABCOCK, the troubled German engineering group, has secured additional funding of DM600 million from banks for its restructuring programme. The programme was approved by the company's board on Monday, but will not be outlined to investors for a number of weeks. DB plans to sell off fringe activities and to complete the restructuring by the end of 1997. One-off charges and operating losses will leave a total deficit of about DM400 million in the current financial year, which ends on September 30.

Adam & Harvey dips

ADAM & HARVEY Group, the international distribution and steel stockholding company with interests in Africa, Britain, Germany and the Far East, suffered a decline in profits to £4.6 million before tax in the year to March 31, from £6 million previously. Earnings fell to 53.6p a share, from 84.7p. The final dividend is held at 13.5p a share, making a total of 24.5p (22p). The company said that profits from ongoing operations, particularly in the steel stockholding division, held up better than had been expected. The shares rose 10p to 413p.

Haircare jobs boost

UP TO 100 new jobs will be created in Swansea after a £3.15 million expansion by Alberto Culver, the American-owned haircare and toiletries company. The company is constructing an additional 50,000 square foot plant alongside its European manufacturing headquarters on the Swansea Enterprise Park. The expansion will increase the number of employees to almost 400. The company, which has been in Wales since 1990, exports products made in the principality to Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Watchdog fears rule change against shareholder interests

Emap director-firing plan faces defeat

BY OLIVER AUGUST



Miller: faces defeat

DIRECTORS at Emap, the media and exhibitions company, face an embarrassing defeat over proposals for new rules on firing board members. Pirc, the investment watchdog, is confident that, at next week's annual meeting, shareholders will vote against changes to the articles of association, which would increase the power of the board, led by Robin Miller, the chief executive.

Two non-executive directors have also publicly opposed the changes by printing their own statement of dissent in the official shareholder circular. Joe Cooke and Ken Simmons told shareholders: "This provision removes shareholder

protection from any minority of directors who believe any particular majority decision of the board not to be in shareholders' best interest."

Under the new rules a director would be required to resign after a written request from 75 per cent of board members. Pirc fears the new rules will silence boardroom critics and deter whistle-blowers.

The rule changes will go through if no more than 25 per cent of shareholders vote against them at next Thursday's agn. But Anne Simpson, a director of Pirc, has had a positive response from several large institutional investors after

urging them, in a letter, to deny directors the power to fire each other. She is convinced that shareholders will not give away their powers easily. "The law requires that shareholders appoint company directors. It is therefore only proper that their removal is done by shareholders as well," she said.

The Emap board has argued that the changes would make the board more effective as it would prevent a small group of directors from obstructing the conduct of business in their own interests. But by the same token it could stop independent-minded directors upholding shareholders' interests, Pirc said.

Kvaerner puts chiefs in London

FROM AP IN OSLO

KVAERNER, the Norwegian shipping and engineering company, is moving key management to London as part of a reorganisation after its takeover of Trafalgar House.

Kvaerner, which acquired Trafalgar House for £904 million in April, said that the combined companies were being organised into six core businesses: shipbuilding, processing, construction, oil and gas, metals and wood pulp.

Activities still undergoing major restructuring, such as the Cunard Line and Trafalgar House Property, will be handled separately from the six core areas, Kvaerner said.

The company is changing the names of Trafalgar companies or incorporating them into existing divisions to reflect the new ownership. Kvaerner has been expanding internationally, and bought Trafalgar a few months after failing in a hostile bid for another British company, Amec. Kvaerner now employs 56,000 people in about 200 locations around the world.

Erik Toenseth, president and chief executive, said: "We have a framework for an organisation that can focus on our goal of building Kvaerner into a leading technology and construction firm in the world."

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity John Mason's emergency fund
Notice is hereby given that the Charity Commission for England and Wales has received an application from the Charity John Mason's emergency fund for registration as a charity under the Charities Act 1993. The Commission is considering the application and will notify the charity of its decision. The charity is required to provide further information and documents to the Commission. The charity is required to provide further information and documents to the Commission. The charity is required to provide further information and documents to the Commission.

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LEGAL NOTICES

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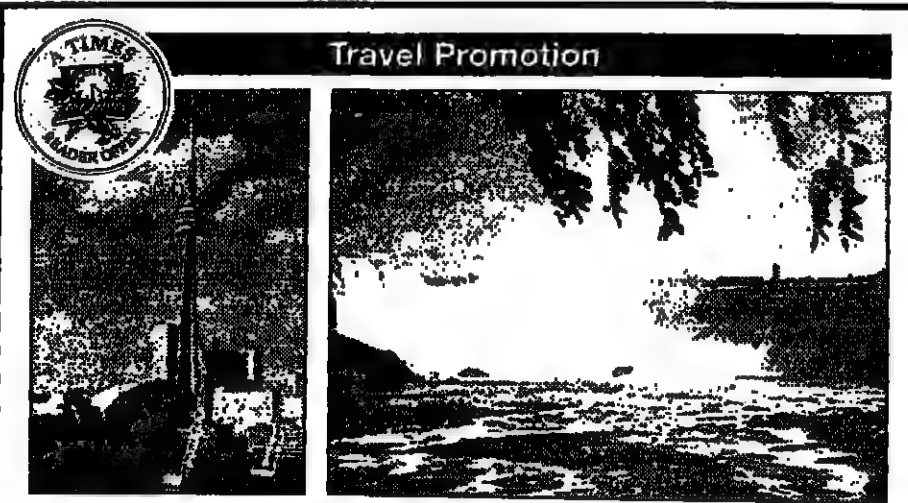
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TIM/TOR

Shares close near low of the day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES							
56	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
57	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
58	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
59	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
60	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
BANKS							
61	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
62	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
63	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
64	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
65	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST							
66	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
67	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
68	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
69	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
70	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT							
71	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
72	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
73	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
74	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
75	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
BUILDING MATERIALS							
76	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
77	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
78	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
79	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
80	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
CHEMICALS							
81	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
82	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
83	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
84	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
85	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
DISTRIBUTORS							
86	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
87	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
88	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
89	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
90	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES							
91	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
92	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
93	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
94	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
95	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
FOOD MANUFACTURERS							
96	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
97	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
98	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
99	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
100	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
HEALTHCARE							
101	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
102	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
103	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
104	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
105	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
HOUSEHOLD GOODS							
106	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
107	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
108	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
109	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
110	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
INSURANCE							
111	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
112	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
113	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
114	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
115	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
INVESTMENT TRUSTS							
116	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
117	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
118	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
119	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
120	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
LEISURE & HOTELS							
121	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
122	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
123	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
124	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
125	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
MEDIA							
126	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
127	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
128	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
129	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
130	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
Mining							
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132	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
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135	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
Oil & Gas							
136	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
137	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
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140	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
Other Financial							
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145	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
RETAILERS, FOOD							
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147	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
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150	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
RETAILERS, GENERAL							
151	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
152	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
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154	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
155	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
Pharmaceuticals							
156	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
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160	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
Printing & Paper							
161	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
162	43	42	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	-0.5	-1.2	16.5
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■ OPERA

From Handel, who loved strong-willed, sexy women who use every trick in the trade to get what they want...



■ OPERA

...to Alban Berg, who created the depraved Lulu, composers have always loved their femmes fatales

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ OPERA

The operatic world finds another darling, after seeing Elena Kelessidi star in Covent Garden's *La traviata*



■ TOMORROW

Read Benedict Nightingale's verdict on Eileen Atkins and the rest of the cast in *John Gabriel Borkman*

OPERA: A dangerous woman like Berg's Lulu always has to Pay the Price, says Rodney Milnes; plus, a new Violetta

Kiss the girls and make them cry

Female composers have never been exactly thick on the ground. Hildegard of Bingen did not, as far as I am aware, compose any operas: Judith Weir has, and with luck will persist. So the view taken of women in operatic literature has tended to be slightly one-sided. Monteverdi erected two markers for future generations: that pillar of human probity Penelope (1640) and Poppaea (1643), the slut who sleeps her way to the imperial throne and — to the great distress of armchair moralists ever since — gets away with it.

Interestingly, that pair of antipodes was echoed in the great fall-out of operatic activity after the French Revolution by two mutually-admiring composers: Beethoven's Leonore (1805), the Penelope of the revolutionary era, and some might feel a very necessary corrective to Cherubini's Medea of eight years earlier. All may take comfort from Leonore's example, and while it would be going too far to hail Medea as the heroine of an unborn feminist movement, one does sort of see her point of view. Wagner united some of these markers: in *Kundry* he gives us a woman who is a servant by day and a temptress offering unimaginable delights by night, half skivvy half slut, probably every 19th-century male's notion of the ideal woman.

There were naturally less polarised portraits of the sex in the enlightened 18th century: has any musician understood or loved women as well as Mozart? Handel ran him

close, and not just with Cleopatra, recreated in early 20th-century cinema as the archetypal vamp. Handel loved his sorceresses, his Melissas, Alcina and Armida, strong-willed, sexy women who use every trick in the trade to ensnare tediously upright knights and paladins; they fail, but Handel gives them sympathetic death scenes. He was on their side.

Nevertheless, these disruptive women Pay the Price, and that has tended to be the pattern ever since. Yes, men desperately need vamps and femmes fatales, but they must be punished for filling that need. Fioriligi and Dorabella, who, egged on by men, are only doing what comes naturally, must be publicly humiliated. Having fulfilled her function, Kundry conveniently lies down and dies. Verdi's Violetta lies down and dies at some considerable length.

6 Carmen is the source of all subsequent femmes fatales

Massenet's Manon actually asks her lover to forgive her before she does the same. Princess Eboli, having enterprisingly slept her way through the court of Philip II and hit only one obstacle, retires defeated to a convent. Massenet's energetic courtesan Thaïs suffers even worse humiliation: not only a convent, but sainthood and expiation amidst a flurry of attendant angels and top Ds.

When women threaten to destabilise whatever the accepted norms of society may be at the time, their future will be short. Bizet's *Carmen* (1875) is probably the immediate source of all subsequent femmes fatales. She states her



Both predator and victim: Louise Brooks's unforgettable Lulu in *Pandora's Box* shoots Dr Schön — "one of the epic moments in world theatre"

principle at the centre of the opera: "above all that intoxicating word — freedom!" Freedom to live life on her own terms of openness and honesty — oh dear me, no. The fact that she has the misfortune to fall in with a mother-fixated, gratuitously violent, spoilt priest may be taken as symbol of society's way of dealing with such dangerous anarchy.

Pausing nervously at Strauss's Salome, who certainly gets her man, or part of him, and is somewhat gratuitously rubbed out at curtain-fall for her pains, we come to the greatest of all operatic femmes fatales: Berg's Lulu, the child-like waif created by Frank Wedekind, recreated so unforgettably by Louise Brooks in Pabst's movie *Pandora's Box*, and to be recreated operatically by Christine Schäfer at Glyndebourne on Monday.

Brooks's Lulu was a figure of infinite mystery: at once predator and victim, wholly innocent yet unimaginably depraved. In both play and opera, the basic facts of her life are only revealed at random, and it is useful to be reminded of them chronologically.

She is picked up off the streets at the age of 12 by the newspaper proprietor Dr Schön, who takes her off the hands of her pimp, possible father and/or original violator, the asthmatic Schigolch. She is brought up in the family as a sort of foster-sister to Schön's son Alwa. When she becomes inconveniently nubile, Schön farms her out to his friends while retaining his copulatory rights — to an elderly doctor, to a painter whom he supports financially. Each has a different name for her — she is not "important" enough to have her own. When Schön, the only man she has ever loved, arranges a financially advantageous marriage and parades his fiancée in front of her in the theatre where she works, she has had enough, forces him to break off the engagement and marry her instead. And when, as a married woman, she seeks to live along the lines that polite society has taught her to be the norm, Schön tries to make her commit suicide; instead she turns the gun on him and pumps him full of lead. It is at that point that I am always tempted to stand on my seat and cheer. It is one of the epic moments in world theatre.

But she Pays the Price. After Berg's pallid, dromic interlude, her descent is charted mirror-wise via the parody of "polite society" amid procurers and financial swindlers in Paris to the garret in White-chapel, where, to support Alwa and Schigolch, she works as a prostitute. Her clients are played by the "victims" from the first part, and the last is Schön/Alwa the Ripper. That the only person to love Lulu for herself, and indeed selflessly, amid all these normal people should be the lesbian Countess Geschwitz is Wedekind's most subversively ironic comment — Geschwitz, too, falls victim to the Ripper's knife while trying to protect Lulu, having just determined to fight for women's rights.

There are two points. I do not believe that opera, literature, society even, have ever quite recovered from this devastating drama: attitudes to the femme fatale, to the femme tout court, could never be the same again. And, of course, Lulu, as both play and opera, is a comedy — how else could you possibly tell so revolting a story? — and should at times be extremely funny. How will the producer Graham Vick succeed? Watch this space... Lulu opens at Glyndebourne (01273 813 813) on Monday

In full flower

TO FIND one remarkable Violetta for your double-cast run of *Traviata* may be regarded as good fortune; to find two looks like astute planning. Rodney Milnes writes. Brave indeed the soprano daring to follow Angela Gheorghiu, current darling of the operatic world, but on Wednesday that world may have found another darling. She is Elena Kelessidi, born not much more than 20 years ago of Greek parents in Kazakhstan, where she made her debut in 1991. She then moved to Athens, where she lives and sings, as of now, that is: tomorrow the world.

Her voice is not huge, but it

La traviata Covent Garden

projects easily. The sweet vibrancy of her tone is reminiscent of Pilar Lorengar, and there are fascinating undertones giving the sound a sense of depth that makes up for her — as yet — limited range of colour. She has all the notes, evenly placed, up to an unwritten E-flat for near enough. She is also as pretty as paint, tiny and with great big dark eyes: her Violetta was fragile, doomed, quite heart-rending in the last act.

Vincenzo La Scala, her Alfredo, was what Italian critics call "correct", and rather more in a second-act aria phrased with the elegance of an Alfredo Kraus. Elsewhere he was tested by some of the conductor Simone Young's wilfully slow tempos, which chime in with Richard Eyre's rather dreary production. Dmitri Hvorostovsky gave his best Covent Garden performance to date as Germont père. How curious that this young baritone should be more convincing as an imperious and cruel father-figure than as a romantic hero.

BERG's *Lulu* is one of four operas to be featured in Glyndebourne's new Sound Bites cassette series, intended to familiarise audiences with lesser-known works in the current repertoire at Glyndebourne or other British companies. Each side of each tape features a well-known broadcaster talking for 40 minutes about an opera, introducing plot, character and historical background. The

talks, which are written by various opera specialists, are illustrated by musical extracts. The series is edited by Antony Peattie.

The first two cassettes cover Handel's *Rodelinda* and *Theodora*, and Berg's *Lulu* and *Wozzeck*. The tapes can be ordered from PO Box 4000, London W5 2GH, or by telephone from Glyndebourne (01273 812321). They cost £4.50 each.

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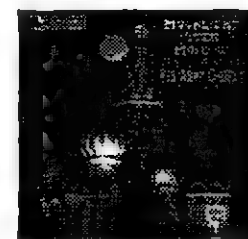
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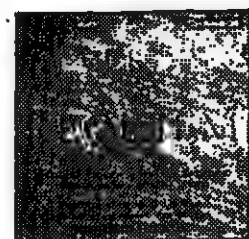
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Survival Technique
(WEA 0630-25227)
MARTIN OKASILI is a London-born singer and songwriter of Irish/Nigerian parentage whose forthcoming album *The Invisible History of the Black Celt* draws its inspiration from the theory that the first Celts were, in fact, black.

His debut single, *Survival Technique*, is a bold statement of intent that draws equally on rock and soul to produce echoes of Seal at his most passionate as Okasili sings of carrying his head high in a world of trouble and travail.

POP ALBUMS

ANI DIFRANCO
Dilate
(Righteous Babe/Cooking Vinyl COOK 103)
THE 1990s will surely be remembered as the decade when women in rock finally found their voice. If the initial fuss Alanis Morissette caused by venting her feelings and using the occasional f-word has been converted into mind-boggling sales figures, that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Even so, going from the frankness of Morissette to the lacerating declamations of Ani DiFranco is like progressing from shandy to neat whisky. The 25-year-old singer-songwriter from Buffalo, New York, is nothing if not forthright about her desires. "I just happen to like apples/And I am not afraid of snakes," she sings in *Adam And Eve*, which is about as coy as it gets.

Disappointed in love more often than not, she frequently ends up lashing out with a

virulent mixture of childish anger and withering scorn: "Little mister limp dick is up to his old tricks/And thought he'd call me one last time." While such displays of indignation sometimes have a petulant ring, she sings with such compelling intensity, in a swooping voice that carries echoes of female icons from Jori to Tori, that you cannot help but be drawn in. And she is a tremendous guitarist, with a percussive way of playing that recalls the modern, rootsy touch of Ben Harper.

In America, DiFranco is a cult hero and *Dilate* is her eighth album. She will not be ignored over here for much longer.

SCREAMING TREES

Dust
(Epic 483980)
IT IS being talked up in the music press as the "rock masterpiece" of the year, and there is indeed something special about *Dust*, the eighth album by hardcore/grunge also-rans Screaming Trees.

Not heard of since they played here in 1993 to promote the aptly titled album, *Sweet Oblivion*, this garrulous quartet from Ellensburg, Washington, has spent the intervening time honing its sound into a shape that is tough enough to take on mainstream giants such as Soundgarden but vibrant and unusual enough to put them in the ring with progressive eccentrics such as the Afghan Whigs.

Producer George Drakoulis deserves credit for his part in bringing about this transformation, but the key to the album's success is the extraordinary performance throughout by singer Mark Lanegan. He has cultivated a rich, relaxed drawl that almost sounds like a croon on

the desolate *Sworn and Broken*, where emotions as big as the guitar sound are counterpointed by touches of fair-ground organ and cello.

The lyrics may speak of pain and desperation, but there is a newfound confidence and maturity in the cascading chord steps of *Dying Days* that suggest a band reaping the benefits of a creative rebirth.

AFRO CELT SOUND

Volume 1 Sound Magic
(Realworld/Virgin 8 41736)

THE enthusiasm with which modern dance acts have embraced elements of "ethnic" music is not often reciprocated. But Afro Celt Sound System — an ad hoc gathering of African and Celtic musicians including James McNally, Davy Spillane and members of Baaba Maal's group — have not only joined up the dots between the African and Celtic music traditions but also fitted out the resulting hybrid with a variety of pulsating dancefloor beats, from trip-hop and trance to skittering drum 'n' bass patterns.

This is revolutionary stuff. And yet the rapid rhythmic flourishes of the bodhran mingle with various talking drums and other items of African percussion as if it were ever thus.

A bold and unusual venture carried off, in the main, with striking results.

EDDI READER

Candyfloss and Medicine
(Blanco Y Negro 0630-15120)

SHE still lacks edge, and on cabaret set pieces such as her last single, *Town Without Pity*, the spectre of Mari Wilson looms. But Eddi Reader has a voice that skips and soars like birdsong on *Rebel Angel* or conjures a mood of poignant regret on *Semi Precious*.

She adds some regional spice on *Glasgow Star*, name-checking various streets and bus routes in a soft Scottish brogue. But the best moments are when she reaches for some jazzier flavours on the traditional *I Loved A Lad* and the Boo Hewerdine/Calum MacColl song *Butterfly Jar*, lending a welcome touch of mystery to an otherwise uncomplicated formula.

How will you vote in the buy-election between Gary Barlow and Robbie Williams?



So close, and now so far apart: Robbie Williams and Gary Barlow (front left and right) last year, just before Take That became a four-piece

New labour v militant

It is hard to believe, but there are children young enough not to remember last year's Blur v Oasis wars. Children who will have to turn to old newsreels — well, the Video Vault on *The Chart Show* — in order to relive those heady days. Luckily enough, though, we are just about to go through the whole thing again, but with minor changes.

Here's the deal. Robbie Williams, formerly of Take That, is set to release his first solo single this month, a few weeks after Gary Barlow, formerly of Take That, released his debut solo single. And, in much the same way as Blur/Oasis polarised a nation, so will the Gary/Robbie battle, with those members of the public who remain undecided about whom to root for branded conscientious objectors.

And so for the players. Gary was/is the shy, pudding-like genius who only ever really looked happy when he was walking offstage at the end of a concert; a man squeezed into things and crowns when his very essence screams cardigan; and who looked confused or embarrassed when girls screamed at him. Robbie was his polar opposite: the

bratish, charismatic, loose cannon with no real talent save for being witty, pretty and up for it.

The battle will be fought over the two singles. Robbie's is a sprightly cover of George Michael's *Freedom 90*, a choice loaded with meaning (the lyrics are Michael's plea for the public to understand that his previous teeny-bop career was much against his will, and that his solo material is what he is really like). It is a rigidly faithful version that will no doubt have an amusing video. Robbie gives good vid.

Gary's offering is the insipid *Forever Love*, a self-penned slab of "maturity", that is the sound of approximately nothing happening for four minutes. It just kind of hangs around, being tasteful, and fades away from boredom. One imagines the producer saying to Gary: "When you're ready, then," and Gary replying: "I'm halfway through, actually."

Both Robbie and Gary seem to have the same objectives — to put the shrill,

screaming legacy of Take That behind them and embark on a career that appeals to the Adult Market, which is far less fickle (and therefore more lucrative) than the teen market. One imagines that in this particular battle, Robbie will do better, as his song is the more commercially appealing. However, the long-term forecast would seem to suggest that Gary will be the winner. According to Robbie, Gary has been stockpiling songs since Take That's second album, and some of them are pretty hot stuff. A man who finished the first phase of his career with singles as anemic as *Never Forget* and *Back for Good* is obviously going to be making the charts a more pleasant place for a good while to come.

However, it would be a little boring if Gary won — he is not exactly star material. The strongest emotion he manages to convey when performing is one of panic; he was always a beat behind the others when Take That

started dancing, and in every photograph he looks as if he has just that second discovered that a pin has been left in the collar of his new shirt. He is unfortunate to have been born when he was. Had he been born 30 years earlier, he would have been accepted simply as a songwriter in the same vein as Leiber and Stoller or Gamble and Huff — allowed to slob around and simply write songs, rather than having to become a performer as well.

Robbie, on the other hand, is the consummate performer, but can do very little else but perform. He has spent the past two years wishing out loud for Noel Gallagher from Oasis to write him a hit — something that Noel has noticeably failed to do. Can you imagine how embarrassing it must be every time Robbie and Noel meet at a premiere? Noel absentmindedly humming at the urinals, and Robbie crouched behind him with a little tape-recorder and a hopeful look on his face. If the world was a perfect place, Gary would be writing songs for Robbie to perform. But then, they tried that before.

● *Forever Love* is released by RCA. *Freedom 90* is released by Chrysalis on July 29

CAITLIN MORAN

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 Jagged Little Pill.....Alanis Morissette (Maverick)
- 2 Recurring Dream — Best of.....Crowded House (Capitol)
- 3 Falling Into You.....Celine Dion (Epic)
- 4 Moseley Shoals.....Ocean Colour Scene (MCA)
- 5 The Smurfs Go Pop!.....Smurfs (EMI TV)
- 6 (What's the Story) Morning Glory?.....Oasis (Creation)
- 7 The Score.....Fugees (Columbia)
- 8 1977.....Aali (Interscope)
- 9 Older.....George Michael (Virgin)
- 10 Walking Wounded.....Everything But the Girl (Virgin)

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All This Useless Beauty

Brand New Album by

Elvis Costello

JACKSON BROWNE



I'M THE CAT

THE NEW SINGLE FEATURING PREVIOUSLY UNRELEASED LIVE TRACKS OUT NOW

Soundtrack to a good life

CHICK COREA
Music Forever & Beyond
(GRP GRD-59819)

FOR 30 years the American pianist Chick Corea has been one of jazz's major figures, and this five-CD set follows his development from ear-catching sideman with the likes of Blue Mitchell and Stan Getz, through his emergence as leader of both acoustic and

JAZZ ALBUMS

electric fusion bands in the 1970s and 1980s, to his current status as world-famous virtuoso.

In some ways, Corea's music has gone full circle since 1964. His main strength — an inexhaustible improvisational imagination expressed

through sparkling lucidity, tonal brilliance and an exquisite delicacy of touch — is exhibited in all its glory in his acoustic music of the 1960s and the 1990s. These qualities, however, are precisely those stifled by the hectic bombast of his 1970s *Return to Forever* period and — so many the nadir of his career — the undemanding, yuppie-friendly ear candy purveyed by his *Electric Blue* in the 1980s.

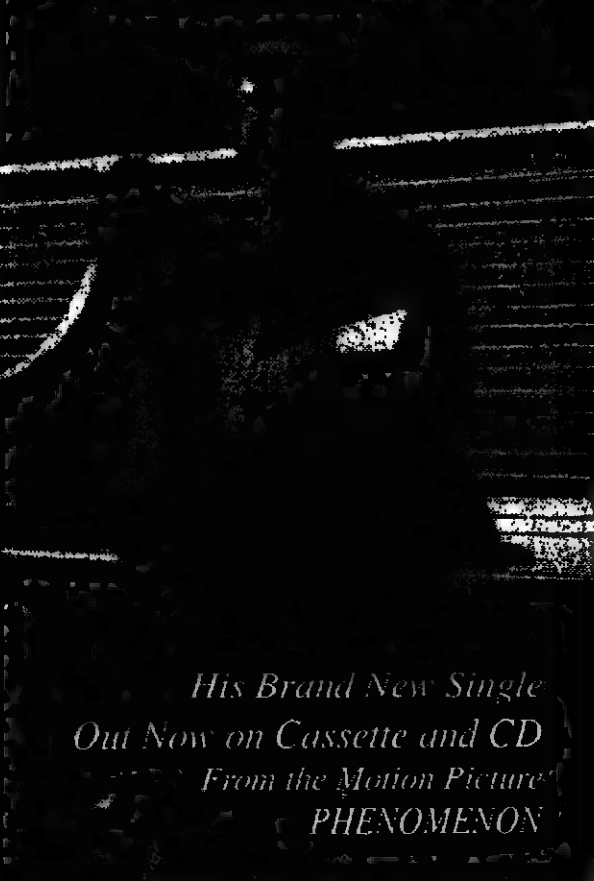
So the return to acoustic quartet music on the previously unreleased material on disc five comes as a considerable relief, and his stunning interplay with saxophonist Bob Berg, bassist John Patitucci and drummer Gary Novak on a selection of standards, Monk classics and Corea's own delightfully tricky *Story* is almost worth the price of admission alone.

AZIZA MUSTAFA ZADEH
Seventh Truth
(Columbia 484238 2)
SINCE bursting on to the jazz scene in the late 1980s as a teenager, the pianist and singer Aziza Mustafa Zadeh has carved a special niche for herself with her unique blend of Azeri folk music, jazz improvisation and extraordinary soprano vocals. Her deep knowledge of and respect for the jazz tradition is tellingly filtered through a pianistic technique honed to perfection by classical training.

On CD, however, she has never quite delivered. Her previous album featured a stellar fusion cast, obscuring Zadeh's originality; this solo (plus Indian percussion) recording frequently emphasises her weaknesses rather than her considerable strengths. There are too many songs with New Age lyrics, too little of Zadeh's exhilarating piano playing, and too few of her soaring, joyously uninhibited vocal flights.

CHRIS PARKER

eric
CLAPTON
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PHENOMENON

SUPER FURRY ANIMALS



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"THE RECORD IS AWASH WITH LAYERS OF ORCHESTRATION, RECORDERS, ELECTRONIC EFFECTS, BIONIC PERCUSSION AND LUSH VOCAL HARMONIES."

Q MAGAZINE 4/5

"THIS SOUNDS LIKE THE FUTURE TRYING TO CATCH UP WITH ITSELF. 'HOMETOWN UNICORN' IS AS BLISSFUL AND IDYLIC AS IT IS ON THEIR ALBUM. WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU HAVEN'T GOT IT YET?"

MELODY MAKER

"SEE, DEBUT LONG-PLAYERS PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH GUITAR LEANINGS... RARELY COME AS MULTI-LAYERED, AS LOVINGLY MANIPULATED AS THIS... THINK, 'DO THEY DON'T WRITE 'EM LIKE THAT ANYMORE... HANG ON THEY DO!'"

NME 8/10

SEE SUPER FURRY ANIMALS ON TOP OF THE POPS TONIGHT

LIVE ON THE NME STAGE AT T IN THE PARK 8PM THIS SUNDAY

A CREATION RECORDS PRODUCT

Christopher Digby-Bell on how people are using new powers to win special help for their children

A forum for listening to the parents

Who knows best how to deal with children with special needs? Teachers say they do, until the children become too difficult and have to be excluded from mainstream schools. Local councils say they do — provided the special education budgets have not been cut. What about parents? Surely they are in the best position to judge what is best for their child? How can they make sure their voices are heard?

Parents of the 20 per cent of children with special needs are showing themselves to be ready to fight to win better provision for their children. They have new powers — and have learnt how to use them. Since September 1994, parents who are unhappy with their council's decisions about provision for their children have been able to appeal to an independent body, the Special Educational Needs (SEN) tribunal.

Established under the Education Act 1993, the tribunal replaces the old local appeals committee made up of council representatives. A veteran of the old system says: "At appeal hearings, council officers used to refer, unashamedly, to members of the committee by their first names, leaving parents feeling marginalised and powerless." The old process was slow and often inconclusive.

The new tribunal is very different. It is made up of three members: a lawyer chairman and two members from a lay panel whose members will have experience of special needs, of local government or of both. Cases are being heard within six months and the tribunal's orders are binding on the council.

The 1993 Act also introduced a code of practice designed to give parents more say in their children's schooling. The code emphasises co-operation and partnership.

However, experience is showing that many parents want power, not partnership, and are using the code and the new appeals system to confront councils head-on. As one mother said: "My council wanted a partnership with me only on terms that I agreed with their view of what was best for my son."

Early estimates of 700 cases a year have been proved wrong. More than 1,900 cases were registered in the first 18 months alone. Last September applications peaked at 50 a week. About 30 per cent of cases are withdrawn, often just before the hearing, suggesting that parents may be using the threat of tribunal proceedings to force councils to accept negotiated settlements.

Of the 800 or so cases that have been heard, parents have been successful (either wholly or in part) in more than 60 per cent. This is a remarkably high success rate and confounds early predictions that suggested parents would not be able to cope and would be overwhelmed by

the arguments of well-drilled, well-resourced, professionally trained council appeals teams.

How have parents been able to achieve such success? One explanation is that the tribunal has been designed to be user-friendly. Under the leadership of its president, Trevor Aldridge, QC, the tribunal attempts to make its proceedings as informal and non-confrontational as possible.

Another explanation is that councils have been slow to come to terms with the new system. Councils are feeling the pressure and they do not like losing, an obvious sign of this being their reluctance to agree to hearings being held in public.

Will parents be able to maintain this level of success? Councils are turning to specialist advocates to present their cases and to examine parents' evidence. The probability is that the SEN tribunal will become like other tribunals, where hearings have become adversarial battles dominated by lawyers. This will be a problem for parents because legal aid is not available and there is normally no award of costs.

In future, councils will keep cases under closer review. They will start to question the quality of the reports and expert opinions on which they rely. As these reports are usually provided by local or health authority-employed experts, their opinions are open to challenge on the ground that they are not truly independent.

For example, educational psychologists carry out assessments as employees of the local authority. As professionals, they have a duty to act in the best interests of their child client but, as employees of the authority, they have a duty to act on their employer's instructions to work within the special-needs budget — which is, in most cases, shrinking.

This creates a hopeless conflict of interests for the professional and produces reports that are tailored not to the child's needs but to whatever council provision is available.

The new system has one other big flaw: although the tribunal's orders bind the council, the tribunal itself has no powers of enforcement. So parents have to look elsewhere for tougher remedies. They can complain to the council and then to the Secretary of State. If there is maladministration, they can complain to the Local Government Ombudsman. A final resort is to litigation for judicial review for breach of statutory duty or possibly negligence.

But does it really have to be such a battle? As a parent who successfully appealed to the tribunal said: "My son has won his case — but he has lost a year of the speech therapy he needed."

● The author is a partner of City law firm Frere Cholmeley Bischoff and legal adviser to the Down's Syndrome Association.



Harriet Jackson, aged four: at the centre of a "win or bust" struggle with an education authority

A victory bouquet for Harriet

This child's parents fought a three-year battle for the school they thought best for her

HARRIET JACKSON'S parents waged a three-year battle to force Staffordshire Education Authority to pay her fees at Birmingham's National Institute of Conductive Education. By the time they tasted victory in the High Court last Friday, they were facing bankruptcy. John O'Leary writes.

The case is believed to be the first to run the full course through the new special educational needs tribunal and the legal system. The outcome may encourage parents in a similar position, but it shows how high the stakes can be.

Harriet, who is four, has spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy. Nicholas Bowen, who put her case in the High Court, described her as "a child intellectually complete, locked in a body which will not work".

Phil and Charlotte Jackson, who own a computer shop in Lichfield, Staffordshire, exhausted their savings sending their daughter to the institute from the age of two. She made

"tremendous progress" with methods developed at the Peto Institute, in Budapest, and staff held out the prospect of an eventual transfer to mainstream schooling. Harriet was said to be both happy and popular at the institute. She was chosen to present a bouquet to the Princess of Wales at an opening ceremony last year.

However, with fees of £13,000 in the nursery, rising to £18,000 for older age groups, it was going to be possible to keep Harriet at the institute only if Staffordshire picked up

the bill. And the local authority argued that suitable provision was available (at half the cost) at one of its own nurseries.

The Jacksons took their case to the tribunal and won the right to send Harriet to the school of their choice. But the authority appealed, arguing that the money would be better spent in the county.

Last week Mr Justice Collins dismissed the authority's case as "pretty hopeless" and awarded costs to the Jacksons on an indemnity basis, ensuring that they will recoup the thousands of pounds they incurred in legal fees, as well as securing Harriet's place. A defeat would have meant bankruptcy for the family, despite contributions from sympathisers.

Mrs Jackson said: "It is a great victory for all parents of special-needs children who will be going to the tribunal. We have been through three years of heartache and hell with the county council."

Short of funds to fence out the criminals

David Charter identifies a problem with school security

A fence would help to keep the drug users and vandals out of the grounds of St Bernadette's Primary School. It might have deterred the two flashers who exposed themselves to children, or the intruder caught stealing from the staffroom at the school in Stockport, Cheshire.

But a two-year campaign for funding for a fence ended in disappointment when the Department for Education and Employment announced borrowing approvals earlier this year. Stockport council applied for £3 million, including £20,000 for a fence at St Bernadette's. In all, it was allowed £46,000.

Max Hunt, Stockport's chief education officer, says: "The department does not hand out money, it hands out approvals to borrow. The Government strictly controls capital expenditure because of its importance in the public sector borrowing requirement. Our ceiling of £46,000 does not go very far around our 136 schools."

The machine attack on children at their teddy bears' picnic in Wolverhampton on Monday showed again how vulnerable schools are. It came after the Government had accepted all 22 recommendations of its working party on school security, set up after the fatal stabbing in December of Philip Lawrence, the London head teacher.

These included new guidance on the design of schools, as well as alterations which could be made to existing buildings. But, as St Bernadette's has found, changes can be hard to make when competition for funds is fierce.

Sinfon Community School, in Derby, was de-

signed to be accessible. It is next to a shopping centre and has walkways allowing people to wander through the grounds.

Pat Collings, the head teacher, has just won a bid for funds to help to secure some of her school's 38 external doors.

"Some sites were designed to be very open," she says. "There needs to be some priority funding for schools such as ours. I don't think any of us can prevent the occasional madman, but this is about assuring the best protection we can."

Robin Squire, the Schools Minister, has promised "substantial new money" for security. But this week he refused to say how much, or to bring forward the funding from next April. The government working party meets on Monday and will renew calls for an immediate release of money.

Meanwhile St Bernadette's waits to hear whether it will get any cash in competitive bidding from another scheme, the Schools Renewal Challenge Fund. The cost of daily vandalism continues to mount. Last week 100 tiles were stolen from the roof, three windows broken and graffiti painted on walls.

Father Stephen Dwyer, the chairman of governors, says: "I am at the end of my tether. I am scandalised that the DFEE cannot make money available."

A spokeswoman for the department says: "We look at all the bids against the evidence the local authority has put forward and the other projects put forward in other areas. The choice depends on how much money is available and not everyone can be successful."

HARRY GREENWOOD



Father Dwyer with the head teacher of St Bernadette's

France's flight into the future

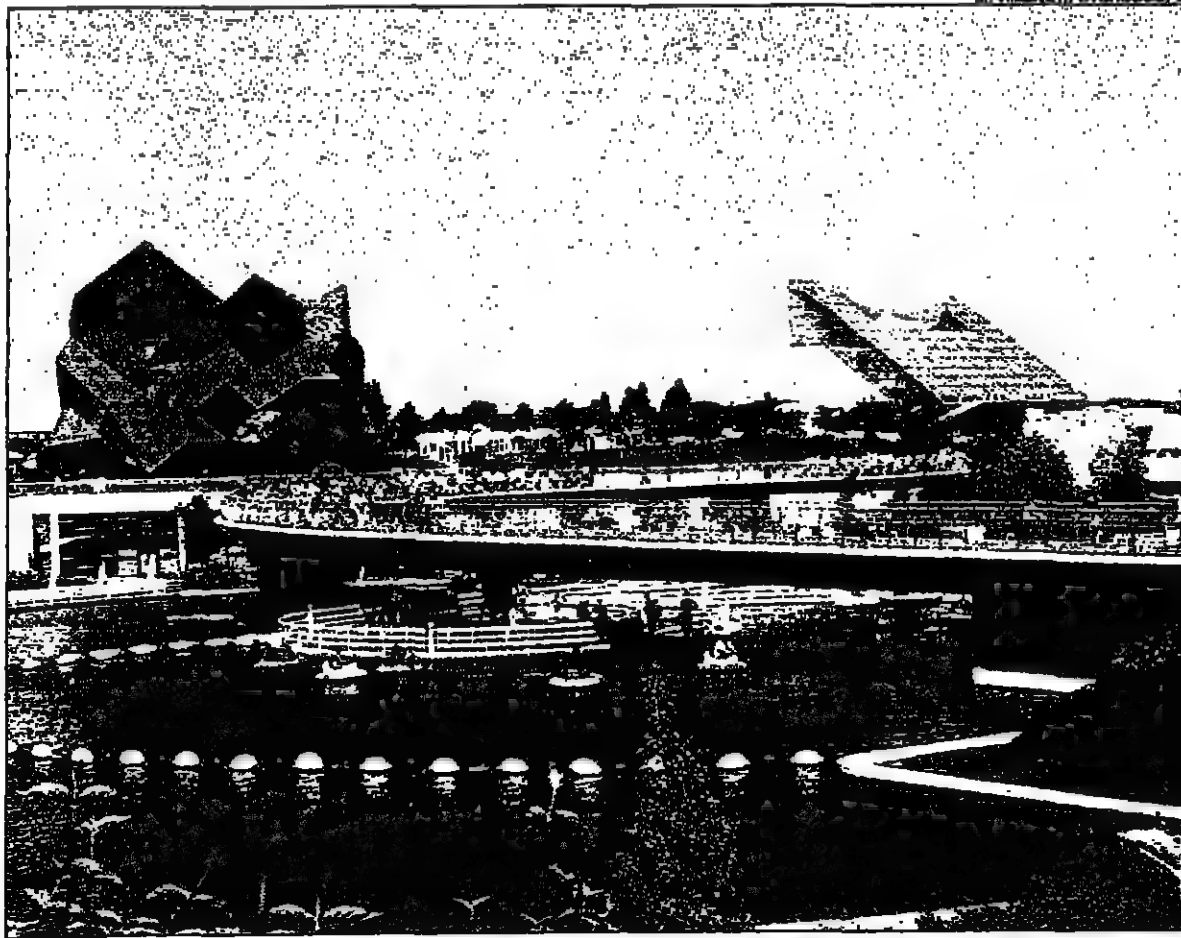
John O'Leary reports on the spectacular venue for an international educational conference

This week saw Europe's main contribution to the Year of Lifelong Learning, a three-day international conference with 130 presentations. Such gatherings seldom have a lasting impact but, whatever the standard of debate, the venue must have made an impression on delegates. The meeting took place at the Futuroscope theme park, near Poitiers in France, an entertainment attraction second only to Euro Disneyland. Bordeaux-bound holidaymakers may have noticed the striking collection of futuristic buildings from the autoroute. Growing numbers of British tourists are stopping to see the series of cinema-based pavilions.

But the casual visitor may not be aware of the full extent of the enterprise, which has no parallel in Britain. Alongside the white-knuckle rides and stunning cinematic images are a university campus, a school and a conference and communications centre, as well as a burgeoning industrial estate of high-tech companies. The aim is to produce a concentration of technology that will be a creative force and bring economic benefits to the region.

The presence of the European Distance Education Network's conference is no accident. The opening was performed by René Monory, president of the French Senate and the inspiration and moving force behind Futuroscope. M Monory is also President of the Conseil-Général for the Vienne region, had the idea of creating a futuristic project to compete with the attractions of Paris in 1983.

By 1987, the beetroot fields had begun to give way to space-age



The Futuroscope theme park near Poitiers is an entertainment attraction second only to Euro Disneyland

designs. While children and their families have been drawn in ever-increasing numbers to the park of the moving image, communications facilities unrivalled in France have had the desired effect on inward investment by private companies and educational institutions. M Monory is also an enthusiastic European — hence his involvement in this week's conference — and the project has been the catalyst for a series of twinning arrangements.

In term time, the theme park is dotted with parties of schoolchildren carrying out tasks set by the education

unit. Futuroscope has become a popular venue for primary school pupils on study weeks since most of the park's pavilions can be approached on more than one level: often spectacular but also technologically advanced.

Where London's Museum of the Moving Image is primarily historical, Futuroscope looks ahead. It boasts a 360-degree screen, 3D and exceptionally clear film from space, as well as stomach-churning special effects.

Other children and older students

benefit from the project through the CNED, the French equivalent of the Open University, which predates its British counterpart but has never developed to the same extent. Even the lycée has a futuristic feel to it, with a electronically moveable canopy to protect the pupils from the elements.

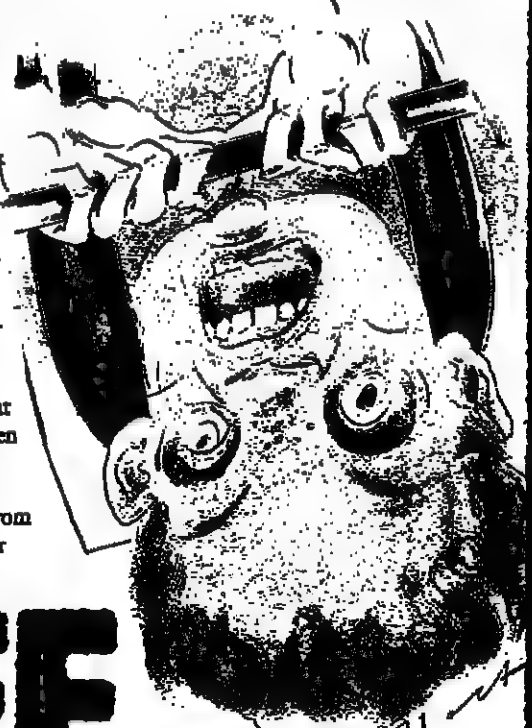
Whether the fusing of education, technology and entertainment really works is open to question, but the vision behind the project can only be admired. It is hard to imagine a British region attempting a development of such scale and ambition.

FREE CHILDREN'S TICKETS TO LEADING ATTRACTIONS

Starting on 12th July, *The Times Educational Supplement* will be publishing special vouchers every week for 8 weeks. Each voucher entitles a child to free admission to a leading British attraction, provided they are accompanied by a paying adult.

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Resources and the disabled

Regina v Gloucestershire County Council and Another, Ex parte Barry
Regina v Lancashire County Council, Ex parte Royal Association for Rehabilitation and Another
 Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Sir John Balcoube
 [Judgment June 27]

A local authority was not entitled to take into account the availability or otherwise of resources when carrying out its duty under section 21(1) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 of making a decision as to whether it was satisfied in the case of a disabled person that it was necessary in order to meet the needs of that person to make arrangements for all or any of the matters set out in the section.

Where a local authority had identified such needs of a disabled person, resources might be relevant in considering how the needs might be met.

The Court of Appeal so held: (i) allowing, Lord Justice Hirst dissenting, an appeal by Michael Barry against part of a decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Waller) (The Times June 21, 1995) granting judicial review of decisions by Gloucestershire County Council withdrawing services under section 2 of the 1970 Act but refusing his application for an additional declaration that in assessing or reassessing the needs of a disabled person under that Act a local authority was not entitled to take account of the resources available to it; and

(ii) dismissing unanimously an appeal by the Royal Association for

Disability and Rehabilitation ("RADAR") and Beryl Gilpin against the decision by Mr Justice Hirst on July 5, 1995 of an application by Mrs Gilpin's mother, Mrs Annie Ingham deceased, for judicial review of decisions of Lancashire County Council on October 5, 1994 to review Mrs Ingham's care arrangements and on December 9, 1994 that her needs for 24-hour care could best be met by the provision of residential care.

Mr Richard Gordon, QC and Mr Alan Maclean for Barry; Miss Cheryl Booth, QC and Miss Helen Mountfield for RADAR and Ingham; Mr Christopher Fraser, QC and Mr Patrick Eades, QC for Gloucestershire County Council; Miss Geneva Caws, QC and Mr Clive Lewis for Lancashire County Council; Mr Nigel Fleming, QC and Mr Stephen Kovats for the Secretary of State for Health, the second respondent in Barry's application.

LORD JUSTICE SWINTON THOMAS said that words of section 2 had to be construed according to their natural meaning. "Need" was an ordinary English word meaning a basic or essential requirement. A need was a question of assessment and judgment, not discretion. Whether or not a disabled person had a need had to be assessed in precisely the same way as an assessment as to whether he was disabled.

A clear distinction was drawn in the case of a disabled person between a need and what it might be desirable for the disabled person to have. There was a duty to meet the need under section 2 of the 1970 Act.

There was a power to provide that which was desirable under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948 and section 47(1) of the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990.

In his Lordship's judgment, an individual's need was something which could be assessed or met in respect of which a judgment could be formed.

It was difficult indeed to see how a third party's resources or the needs of others could be relevant to making such an assessment or making such a judgment.

The local authority was not entitled to take into account the availability or otherwise of resources when carrying out the duty under section 2(1) of the 1970 Act of making a decision as to whether it was satisfied in the case of a disabled person that it was necessary in order to meet the needs of that person to make arrangements for all or any of the matters set out in the section.

A disabled person could be refused after the court had examined the documents and considered them in the light of the material already in the applicant's possession.

The Court of Appeal so stated when, inter alia, allowing an appeal by the liquidators of Wallace Smith Trust Co Ltd (in liquidation) v Deloitte Haskins & Sells (a firm) and Another.

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Waite
 [Judgment July 10]

In deciding whether to order a party to proceedings to produce any documents for inspection by the other party under Order 24, rule 13 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, the court should examine the facts of the individual case and, in particular, should consider (a) the central issues in the action (b) the nature of the documents and (c) the information which the documents were likely to contain.

If the party seeking discovery showed that the production of the documents might be necessary for the fair disposal of the action, the court should normally only be refused after the court had examined the documents and considered them in the light of the material already in the applicant's possession.

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Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Waite
 [Judgment July 10]

In deciding whether to order a party to proceedings to produce any documents for inspection by the other party under Order 24, rule 13 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, the court should examine the facts of the individual case and, in particular, should consider (a) the central issues in the action (b) the nature of the documents and (c) the information which the documents were likely to contain.

If the party seeking discovery showed that the production of the documents might be necessary for the fair disposal of the action, the court should normally only be refused after the court had examined the documents and considered them in the light of the material already in the applicant's possession.

The Court of Appeal so stated when, inter alia, allowing an appeal by the liquidators of Wallace Smith Trust Co Ltd (in liquidation) v Deloitte Haskins & Sells (a firm) and Another.

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Conditional fee scheme protects action

Connelly v RTZ Corporation plc and Another
 Before Lord Justice Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Ward
 [Judgment May 2]

Where a plaintiff had no prospect of ever funding the prosecution of his action in a foreign jurisdiction, which was the most natural forum for his trial, but could do so in England, which was not an appropriate forum, by means of a conditional fee arrangement with his solicitors, the interests of justice weighed in favour of the English forum where he could assert his rights.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Edward Connelly, from Mr David Steel, QC, who, sitting as a deputy judge of the High Court, had refused his application for removal of the stay of his action imposed by Sir John Wood and upheld by the Court of Appeal (The Times October 20, 1995) [1995] 2 All ER 361 on the ground that the most natural forum to pursue his personal injuries claim against the defendants, RTZ Corporation plc and RTZ Overseas Services Ltd, allegedly arising out of his exposure to ore dust during employment with a subsidiary of the defendants, was Namibia.

On the previous appeal the plaintiff, while accepting that Namibia was prima facie the natural forum for the dispute, save for his inability, through lack of funds, ever to prosecute his claim there, had argued that in view of the availability of legal aid in England, the interests of justice required trial in England.

The Court of Appeal held that section 31(1)(b) of the Legal Aid Act 1988 precluded the court from taking account of the legal aid factor and had accordingly declined to lift the stay imposed by the judge.

The plaintiff's present application was made on the basis of changed circumstances, namely, that he and his solicitors proposed to make a conditional fee arrangement for conduct of the proceedings in England.

Mr Graham Read for the plaintiff; Mr Brian Dwyer and Mr Charles Gibson for the defendants.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that it was necessary for the court to be satisfied that the present proposal to enter a conditional fee arrangement was not a mere subterfuge.

However, the fact was that the plaintiff's previous legal aid certificate had now been discharged; if any future application were to be made, it would be the plaintiff's duty to serve notice on the defendant of the grant of a certificate and undertakings had been proffered, in particular by the plaintiff's solicitor, an officer of the court.

Justice Poplewell. Both appeals had been heard together.

Mr Richard Pender, QC and Miss Cresswell for the plaintiff; Mr John Howell, QC and Mr Stewart Wright for Ms Wolke; Mr Ramby de Mello and Mr Leon Daniel for Mr Remelien.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that both women had entered the country with partners but were now single parents. Ms Remelien had two children and Ms Wolke had one child. Each received income support.

Each had received a letter from the Home Office stating that she had become a burden on public funds and that she should make arrangements to leave the United Kingdom.

Ms Remelien was a French national and Miss Wolke Dutch. Thus in early December 1993 Ms Remelien had no right to live, work or settle in the United Kingdom which was enforceable under either domestic or Community law. She was not an illegal entrant. The position of Ms Wolke in early April 1995 was substantially the same.

Ms Remelien was refused income support in December 1993 and the Social Security Appeal Tribunal dismissed her appeal.

whose good faith was not in doubt. He had good reason to enter into such an arrangement to cover, subject to necessary qualifications, the remaining conduct of the action.

His Lordship referred to *Spiliada Maritime Corporation v Cansulex Ltd* (1987) AC 460, 476, 478 and 482 where Lord Goff of Chieveley had made it plain that he was not intending to lay down a series of inflexible rules which were to be applied to all cases, irrespective of the facts.

It was a clear inference from his speech that no single factor was, as a matter of law, to be treated as decisive. It was hard to think that the availability of legal assistance could ever lead the court to make an order which would lead to trial in a jurisdiction in which there was a significant risk that justice might not be done.

But faced with a stark choice between one jurisdiction, albeit not the most appropriate in which there could be in fact a trial, and another jurisdiction, the most appropriate in which there never could, the interests of justice would tend to weigh strongly in favour of that forum in which the plaintiff could assert his rights.

This approach was consistent with the international obligations undertaken by the United Kingdom under article 6(1) of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1953) (Cmd 8969) and article 14(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) (T/HR/1/rev 2 (1983) pgs 16).

Whether or not those provisions, being no part of domestic law, were strictly applicable, it seemed right to bear the United Kingdom's international obligations in mind when the court was invited to make an order which would have the practical effect of preventing a plaintiff pursuing his rights in England.

His Lordship would therefore allow the appeal, subject to terms, and accept the undertakings proffered by the plaintiff and his solicitors to enter forthwith into the conditional fee arrangement.

The court would require the plaintiff, if he proposed to apply for legal aid, to give notice to the defendants before doing so. They would then be able to apply for reimbursement of the stay.

The plaintiff would also be required, as soon as the arrangement was entered into, to give notice of that fact to the defendants and if the arrangement was terminated to inform the defendants accordingly.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS and LORD JUSTICE WARD delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Leigh Day & Co; Davies Arnold Cooper.

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LORD JUSTICE EVANS and LORD JUSTICE WARD delivered concurring judgments.

Depriving EC nationals of income support

Remelien v Secretary of State for Social Security and Another
Regina v Same, Ex parte Wolke
 Before Sir Stephen Brown, President, Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Phillips
 [Judgment June 18]

A European national who was not a United Kingdom national and who had received a letter from the Home Office that she must make arrangements to leave the country as she had become a charge on public funds could lawfully be deprived of income support.

She had received an authoritative letter conveying a serious instruction which was within the meaning of regulation 2(3)(b) of the Income Support (General) Regulations (SI 1987 No 1967), as amended by regulation 4 of the Income Support (Amendment) Regulations (SI 1993 No 315), that she was required by the Secretary of State to leave the United Kingdom.

The Court of Appeal so held, Lord Justice Phillips dissenting, when allowing appeals from Mr Commissioner Meador and Mr

Justice Poplewell. Both appeals had been heard together.

Mr Richard Pender, QC and Miss Cresswell for the plaintiff; Mr John Howell, QC and Mr Stewart Wright for Ms Wolke; Mr Ramby de Mello and Mr Leon Daniel for Mr Remelien.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that both women had entered the country with partners but were now single parents. Ms Remelien had two children and Ms Wolke had one child. Each received income support.

Each had received a letter from the Home Office stating that she had become a burden on public funds and that she should make arrangements to leave the United Kingdom.

Ms Remelien was a French national and Miss Wolke Dutch. Thus in early December 1993 Ms Remelien had no right to live, work or settle in the United Kingdom which was enforceable under either domestic or Community law. She was not an illegal entrant. The position of Ms Wolke in early April 1995 was substantially the same.

Ms Remelien was refused income support in December 1993 and the Social Security Appeal Tribunal dismissed her appeal.

The Commissioner had allowed her appeal.

Ms Wolke had been granted leave to seek judicial review of the letter and Mr Justice Poplewell had granted a declaration to the effect that it could not be said that she had been required to leave the United Kingdom.

Section 124(1) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 provided that a person in Great Britain was entitled to income support if over the age of 18, had no income or income below the applicable amount, was not engaged in remunerative work and was seeking employment.

Under the 1987 Regulations, where a claim was made by a person from abroad who was a single claimant or a lone parent the applicable amount was nil. Regulation 2(3) provided that "person from abroad" meant a person who "is a national of a member state of the European Community and is required by the Secretary of State to leave the United Kingdom".

Mr Pender submitted that the Commissioner and Mr Justice Poplewell were wrong to construe the words used in the letters as they did. He contended that when

a letter was sent by the secretary of state to a government minister vested with authority to issue a letter to a person to leave the country, it was not a requirement of law that the letter should be issued to the person to leave the country, but that it should be issued to the person to leave the country, but that it should be issued

EQUESTRIANISM: OPENING DAY OF SHOW MARRED BY DELAYS

Robert in top form again at Hickstead

By Jenny MacArthur

MICHEL ROBERT, of France, produced a devastating turn of foot on Airborne Montecillo to relegate Britain's William Funnell on Comex to second place in the West Sands Holidays July Stakes, the main event on the opening day of The Royal International Horse Show, yesterday.

In a fast and furious nine-horse jump-off Nick Skelton, competing at his last show before flying to Atlanta on Wednesday, finished in third place on his Olympic reserve horse, Cathleen. But the opening day of the show, which should be one of Britain's equestrian showpieces, was marred by unexplained delays to the classes.

The course walk for the main event started at 5.30pm, 1½ hours after the competition was due to start. Without the demands of television (only the King George V Gold Cup and the Queen Elizabeth II Cup on Saturday are televised) the show's sense of urgency seems to have deserted it.

Once under way, the July Stakes soon rewarded the sprinkling of spectators who had lingered on. In an absorbing contest nine horses were clear in the opening round, although one of the favourites, Marion Hughes, of Ireland, on her Queen Elizabeth II Cup winner, Flo Jo, was not among them, having faulted at the gate.

Skelton, whose Olympic horse, Showtime, is safely installed at the Georgia International Horse Park, set the standard in the jump-off with a superb round on Cathleen — which was acclaimed as the winning one. Funnell, who loves this ground, promptly knocked more than a second off Skelton's time with an attacking round on Comex, the horse on which he finished third in the King George V Gold Cup last year, before going on to win The Classic on the last day of the show.

But Robert, who has been overlooked for the French Olympic team, also makes a habit of winning at Hickstead — most recently on the opening day of the Nations Cup

meeting in May. Yesterday, throwing caution to the wind, he swept round the seven-fence course to finish half a second faster than Funnell.

With John and Michael Whitaker competing at The Great Yorkshire Show yesterday, the only other member of Britain's Olympic team at Hickstead was Geoff Billington, on Mancuso, who incurred eight faults in the opening round.

"I knew we'd be struggling — there are some good horses here," Billington said. The competition will be even stronger today when the two Whitakers arrive to prepare for Saturday's King George — one of the most coveted prizes in the sport. Earlier, Sianny van Paesschen, a member of Belgium's Olympic showjumping team, made a convincing start to the show when he won the opening speed class on his Belgian-bred gelding, Capricieux des Six Censees, by a margin of 3.51 seconds.

Ireland, who dominated the show last year, filled the next two places — Erik Holstein, on Sir Michael, finishing a fraction of a second ahead of Paul Daragh, on his Barcelona Grand Prix winner, Cera, to take second place. Keith Shore, with his Hickstead specialist, Dun Equity, was the best Briton in the class in fifth place.

Van Paesschen, one of the most popular riders on the circuit, was fulsome in his praise for the Belgian-bred Capricieux des Six Censees after his lightning round. "He's a fantastic horse — very careful and, on a good day, capable of winning a grand prix, he said."

The gelding also has a liking for Hickstead's imposing arena. On his first visit — at the Nations Cup meeting in May — he won on the opening day and was runner-up to John Whitaker, on Elnaville, on the second day. The only discordant note for van Paesschen yesterday concerned the £500 prize-money. "I thought they must have left a zero off when I saw the schedule," he said.



Nick Skelton eases Tinka's Boy over a fence at the Royal International Horse Show

He lost the chance of winning double that amount in the later class with his Olympic horse, Mulga Bill, when the gelding failed to match the furious speed in the jump-off.

While Britain's Olympic horses are already at the Georgia International Horse Park — following the advice given by the Animal Health

Trust which recommends a week to recover from the flight and "two weeks" acclimatisation — the Belgian and Swiss Olympic teams are not flying to Atlanta until 24 July — two days before the warm-up class.

"The flights to Calgary and Monterrey [Mexico] are longer than to Atlanta and we are

usually competing there within two days of arriving," van Paesschen said.

RESULTS: West Sands Holidays July Stakes: 1, Airborne Montecillo (M Robert, 70.1); 2, Comex (W Funnell, 68.0); 3, Sir Michael (E Holstein, 67.5); 4, Cera (P Daragh, 67.0); 5, Dun Equity (K Shore, 66.5); 6, Mancuso (G Billington, 65.0); 7, Flo Jo (M Hughes, 64.0); 8, Calkin (N Hughes, 63.0); 9, Calkin (N Hughes, 62.0).

England to face Italy as Ireland take on Germans

By a Correspondent

ENGLAND, the title-holders, and a much-improved Ireland team cruised into the quarter-finals of the European boys' team golf championship at Cut Murrstatten, in Austria, yesterday. But Wales, who went into the championship with the strongest side they have produced, only made it into the second flight for matchplay while Scotland had to settle for a place in the third, and bottom, flight alongside Holland, Switzerland and the Czech Republic.

Sweden again led the way after an impressive performance on the second day. With five of their six cards counting each day, they scored a total of 699, two strokes clear of Ireland, with Spain third on 704 and England next, a further stroke adrift.

England will now play Italy today for a place in the semi-finals while Ireland take on Germany. There was also great jubilation among the Austrian hosts as they reached the top flight for the first time, but they now come up against a powerful team from Sweden.

The Ireland team was strong in depth again yesterday, with Daniel Sugrue producing his second successive four-under-par round of 68 while both Lee Dalton and David Jones had their second sub-par rounds of the qualifying phase. "It was a brilliant team performance, especially after we did not make the top flight last year or the year before," Frank Gannon, the Ireland captain, said.

England also looked rock solid, with five of their six boys either matching or bettering the par of 72. The course record of 66, set on Wednesday by Oliver Pugh, a Welsh teenager, was lowered yesterday by Alessandro Napoleoni, 18, from Italy, who had a hole-in-one at the fifth on his way to a round of 65, seven under par. That helped the Italians to leapfrog over several countries and keep alive their championship hopes.

QUALIFYING DETAILS: Second-round scores: Championship: 1, Sweden (701); 2, Ireland (699); 3, Spain (704); 4, England (704); 5, Germany (704); 6, France (704); 7, Italy (704); 8, Austria (704); 9, Switzerland (704); 10, Czech Republic (704); 11, Netherlands (704); 12, Belgium (704); 13, Scotland (704); 14, Holland (704); 15, Switzerland (704); 16, Czech Republic (704); 17, Netherlands (704); 18, Belgium (704); 19, Scotland (704); 20, Holland (704); 21, Switzerland (704); 22, Czech Republic (704); 23, Netherlands (704); 24, Belgium (704); 25, Scotland (704); 26, Holland (704); 27, Switzerland (704); 28, Czech Republic (704); 29, Netherlands (704); 30, Belgium (704); 31, Scotland (704); 32, Holland (704); 33, Switzerland (704); 34, Czech Republic (704); 35, Netherlands (704); 36, Belgium (704); 37, Scotland (704); 38, Holland (704); 39, Switzerland (704); 40, Czech Republic (704); 41, Netherlands (704); 42, Belgium (704); 43, Scotland (704); 44, Holland (704); 45, Switzerland (704); 46, Czech Republic (704); 47, Netherlands (704); 48, Belgium (704); 49, Scotland (704); 50, Holland (704); 51, Switzerland (704); 52, Czech Republic (704); 53, Netherlands (704); 54, Belgium (704); 55, Scotland (704); 56, Holland (704); 57, Switzerland (704); 58, Czech Republic (704); 59, Netherlands (704); 60, Belgium (704); 61, Scotland (704); 62, Holland (704); 63, Switzerland (704); 64, Czech Republic (704); 65, Netherlands (704); 66, Belgium (704); 67, Scotland (704); 68, Holland (704); 69, Switzerland (704); 70, Czech Republic (704); 71, Netherlands (704); 72, Belgium (704); 73, Scotland (704); 74, Holland (704); 75, Switzerland (704); 76, Czech Republic (704); 77, Netherlands (704); 78, Belgium (704); 79, Scotland (704); 80, Holland (704); 81, Switzerland (704); 82, Czech Republic (704); 83, Netherlands (704); 84, Belgium (704); 85, Scotland (704); 86, Holland (704); 87, Switzerland (704); 88, Czech Republic (704); 89, Netherlands (704); 90, Belgium (704); 91, Scotland (704); 92, Holland (704); 93, Switzerland (704); 94, Czech Republic (704); 95, Netherlands (704); 96, Belgium (704); 97, Scotland (704); 98, Holland (704); 99, Switzerland (704); 100, Czech Republic (704).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kid gloves off as brothers step into battle

By Christopher Irvine

THE warm-up was in full flow. Henry Paul, the Wigan half of the brotherly double act, described Central Park as the "house of pain". In turn, Robbie, of Bradford Bulls, welcomed his elder sibling to the "terror dome".

No love will be lost between them tonight at Odsal, where the Bulls are unbeaten this season, and Wigan must win to prevent the initiative at the top of the Super League swinging back towards St Helens.

After a match that should have a key bearing on the destiny of the title, the brothers will contact their parents in Auckland. Ideally, their mother would prefer them to play in the same team. She might get her wish in New Zealand's three-match home series against Great Britain in October.

Not since lamb has New Zealand had an export success quite like the Paul brothers. A combination of Robbie, 20, at scrum-half and Henry, 22, outside him, or in any number of different positions he effortlessly slots into at Wigan, is one that even the ultra-conservative New Zealand selectors cannot resist.

Since their mimicry as children of American football running backs, spins out of tackles have become a family trademark. When Henry, a pocket whirlwind, first arrived in England in 1993, he insisted he had a kid brother at home better than him. Robbie has certainly moved out of Henry's shadow, becoming the first player to score three tries in a Challenge Cup final last April, and winning the Lance Todd Trophy for outstanding player, albeit on the losing side to St Helens.

"It was always the younger brother syndrome with me. Henry would set the standard, making representative teams, and I would do my hardest to get into that team as well and do better," Robbie said. "We did play similarly, stepping and spinning, but I think now we're totally different players, even though we get written about as having the same style."

What is in no doubt is the influence both brothers can exert on a game. When one or other is quiet, the opposition is usually winning. Robbie's worst display of the season was saved for Bradford's pre-Wembley visit to Wigan; a 22-6

defeat put Henry 4-0 ahead in the brothers' personal battle. Wigan find themselves in the same position St Helens were a week ago, a point ahead in the Super League, and having to go to the newly fanatical Odsal. It is inconceivable that Wigan will defend as shoddily as St Helens did and the main question is whether the Bulls can capture the same irresistible mood.

This week has been a difficult one for Bradford. Brian Smith is committed to the club until September, when he moves back to Australia to coach Parramatta. It is a sore loss but Smith himself has stuck to the notion of business as usual, and the side has built up in ten months is heading his advice.

After being made captain by him, Robbie Paul has more to



Robbie Paul: outstanding

thank Smith for than most. "I rate him the best coach in the game and it's terrible sad to see him on his way, but Brian is the arch professional and at training on Monday he'd all the plans for the Wigan game just as if nothing had happened," he said. "He's put down firm roots for this side to continue developing."

Karl Fairbank, the Bradford forward, has been cleared to play. The Rugby Football League disciplinary committee yesterday deemed his sending-off against St Helens sufficient punishment. Scott Gibbs, of St Helens, is to appeal today against a two-match ban for use of the forearm in the same match.

Meanwhile, soccer legend Peter Lorimer has joined rugby league club Hunslet Hawks as their new commercial manager.

POLO: ALBWARDY STEPS UP CHALLENGE FOR BRITISH OPEN

Dubai make Buffalos pay for missed chances

By John Watson

AS THE British Open championships for the Veuve Cliquot Gold Cup progressed at Midhurst yesterday Kerry Packer's Ellerslie White, who head League B, defeated Hubert Perrodo's Labegorze 14-9. Then Ali Albwardy's team, Dubai, beat the Buffalos, who are put together by the French player, Jean-Francois Decaux, by 11 goals to eight. Dubai stand second in the same league.

During the first couple of chukkas it looked as though the Buffalos, pivoted on the 10-handicap Argentinian, Sebastian Merlos, had the edge. He creates a formidable close duo with his back, Charles Beresford, and Buffalos led at half-time.

However, Dubai had the advantage in team balance, with every man playing his role effectively. They displayed a more cohesive approach than their opponents in attack. Marcos Heguy, the

longest-hitting man on the pitch, makes a good No 3 for them while their patron, Albwardy, may be a fraction underhandicapped. He certainly proves a handy No 1 and he contributed two good goals to his side's tally.

The Buffalos missed several easy shots and several opportunities from penalty awards. There was a great deal of appealing for fouls and shouting at the umpires by the South American players. These are in themselves technical infringements, but the umpires chose not to penalise them.

In League A, Brook Johnson's squad, CS Brooks, are at the top with Urs Schwarzenbach's Black Bears second and Joe Gottschalk's Les Lions third.

RESULTS: British Open Polo: 1, Dubai (11); 2, St Helens (10); 3, G Puma (10); 4, Bact Lord C (9); 5, Bact Lord C (9); 6, Bact Lord C (9); 7, Bact Lord C (9); 8, Bact Lord C (9); 9, Bact Lord C (9); 10, Bact Lord C (9); 11, Bact Lord C (9); 12, Bact Lord C (9); 13, Bact Lord C (9); 14, Bact Lord C (9); 15, Bact Lord C (9); 16, Bact Lord C (9); 17, Bact Lord C (9); 18, Bact Lord C (9); 19, Bact Lord C (9); 20, Bact Lord C (9); 21, Bact Lord C (9); 22, Bact Lord C (9); 23, Bact Lord C (9); 24, Bact Lord C (9); 25, Bact Lord C (9); 26, Bact Lord C (9); 27, Bact Lord C (9); 28, Bact Lord C (9); 29, Bact Lord C (9); 30, Bact Lord C (9); 31, Bact Lord C (9); 32, Bact Lord C (9); 33, Bact Lord C (9); 34, Bact Lord C (9); 35, Bact Lord C (9); 36, Bact Lord C (9); 37, Bact Lord C (9); 38, Bact Lord C (9); 39, Bact Lord C (9); 40, Bact Lord C (9); 41, Bact Lord C (9); 42, Bact Lord C (9); 43, Bact Lord C (9); 44, Bact Lord C (9); 45, Bact Lord C (9); 46, Bact Lord C (9); 47, Bact Lord C (9); 48, Bact Lord C (9); 49, Bact Lord C (9); 50, Bact Lord C (9); 51, Bact Lord C (9); 52, Bact Lord C (9); 53, Bact Lord C (9); 54, Bact Lord C (9); 55, Bact Lord C (9); 56, Bact Lord C (9); 57, Bact Lord C (9); 58, Bact Lord C (9); 59, Bact Lord C (9); 60, Bact Lord C (9); 61, Bact Lord C (9); 62, Bact Lord C (9); 63, Bact Lord C (9); 64, Bact Lord C (9); 65, Bact Lord C (9); 66, Bact Lord C (9); 67, Bact Lord C (9); 68, Bact Lord C (9); 69, Bact Lord C (9); 70, Bact Lord C (9); 71, Bact Lord C (9); 72, Bact Lord C (9); 73, Bact Lord C (9); 74, Bact Lord C (9); 75, Bact Lord C (9); 76, Bact Lord C (9); 77, Bact Lord C (9); 78, Bact Lord C (9); 79, Bact Lord C (9); 80, Bact Lord C (9); 81, Bact Lord C (9); 82, Bact Lord C (9); 83, Bact Lord C (9); 84, Bact Lord C (9); 85, Bact Lord C (9); 86, Bact Lord C (9); 87, Bact Lord C (9); 88, Bact Lord C (9); 89, Bact Lord C (9); 90, Bact Lord C (9); 91, Bact Lord C (9); 92, Bact Lord C (9); 93, Bact Lord C (9); 94, Bact Lord C (9); 95, Bact Lord C (9); 96, Bact Lord C (9); 97, Bact Lord C (9); 98, Bact Lord C (9); 99, Bact Lord C (9); 100, Bact Lord C (9).

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

We have spent the last few weeks looking at a number of hands that were suitable for a simple response to a take-out double. We will now start to look at some better hands. A jump response in a new suit generally shows in the region of 7-10 HCP. However, more is known about the take-out double's hand than after an opening bid, so the high-card requirements can be viewed a little more flexibly since the degree of fit is also important. The following hands are both suitable for a response of Two Spades after a take-out double of One Heart:

(i) ♠ QJ 10 8
♥ 7 6
♦ K 10 6 4 3
♣ 5

(ii) ♠ KQ 4 3
♥ J 5 4
♦ J 5 3
♣ 7

Although hand (ii) is the stronger in terms of HCP, it is much less attractive in terms of distribution and its three points in hearts are likely to be wasted values.

One useful test to determine whether or not to make a try for game or slam in any situation is to see if you can think of a suitable minimum hand for partner to hold that will make the game or slam a good contract. If you can think of one quickly, then you should make your try. Here you should imagine you are facing a 4-4-4-4 distribution with two aces and a king. By this reckoning hand (i), despite having only 6 HCP, is nearly worth Four Spades. It is the double fit that makes the playing strength of the combined hands so powerful.

A jump in a minor is slightly different. Bear in mind that partner's first thoughts are likely to be directed towards a possible no-trump game. Look at these hands, again in response to a double of One Heart:

(iii) ♠ 7 6
♥ 7 6 3
♦ K 5 4 3
♣ K Q 3

(iv) ♠ 7
♥ K 10 5
♦ K 5 4
♣ K J 10 5 3

With hand (iii) Two Diamonds is enough for the moment. You will certainly bid more if given a chance, but the hand is not very suitable for playing in no-trumps and the playing strength is insufficient to suggest that five of a minor is likely if partner does not bid on. Hand (iv), by contrast, is potentially very suitable for playing in no-trumps. If partner has extra values and a club fit sufficient to hope that the suit will run, he can cue-bid Three Hearts and you will gladly bid Three No-trumps.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

RAMARAMA

a. A rude film
b. The gymnasium at JAGS
c. A tree

TAWA

a. A wind tunnel
b. A stringed instrument
c. A circular griddle

TRILEY

a. The foot
b. A special comb
c. A gardening implement

SCHOONER

a. A measure of beer
b. A pork barrel
c. A region by the Dead Sea

Answers on page 42

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

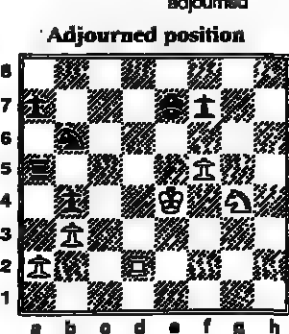
Karpov wins title

Anatoly Karpov successfully defended his Fide world championship after drawing game 18 in 80 moves against Gata Kamsky, the American grandmaster, yesterday. The game had been adjourned after 57 moves, but the draw gave Karpov the 10½ points needed to retain the title. Credit must go to Kamsky who, unlike Anand in his challenge against Kasparov last year, fought Karpov every inch of the way.

White: Gata Kamsky
Black: Anatoly Karpov
Fide world championship
Elista, Game 18, July 1996

Queen's Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6	
2	c4	e6	
3	Nc3	b6	
4	g3	Bd6	
5	Qc2	Bb7	
6	Bg2	c6	
7	Bc2	d5	
8	Ne5	d4	
9	0-0	Nb6	
10	0-0	Nb6	
11	Nu2	Nb6	
12	h4	c5	
13	exd5	exd5	
14	Re1	Re8	
15	Bxd4	Nxd4	
16	Ng4	Nxd4	
17	Nc4	Bg2	
18	Kg2	Ng4	
19	Qg4	g6	
20	Re1	h5	
21	Bxf6	hxf6	
22	Bxh8	Rxf8	
23	Re2	Nd5	
24	Re2	Rd2	
25	Rd2	Rd2	
26	Rd2	Rd2	
27	h5	g6	
28	Kd3	Kd3	
29	Ng2	Kd3	
30	h4	Ne6	
31	Kf3	Ne6	



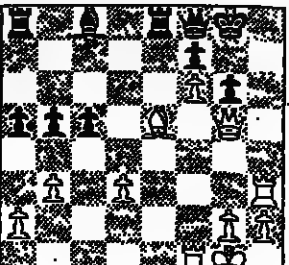
Adjourned position

Moves 58-80 will be given on Monday.

Player of the year

The British Chess Federation player of the year award has been won by grandmaster Michael Adams.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



Winning move

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Cerebren — Trojanescu, Budapest 1952. White has built up a threatening position on the kingside but now his rook on h3 is attacked by the black bishop. Can he do better than retreating this piece?

Solution on page 42

ATHLETICS

NICE, Grand Prix meeting: Selected results: Men: 100m: 1, D Bailey (Can) 10.17sec; 2, L Christie (GB) 10.21; 400m: 1, D Bailey (Can) 1:01.17; 800m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 1:51.17; 1500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 4:01.17; 2000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 5:01.17; 2500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 6:01.17; 3000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 7:01.17; 3500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 8:01.17; 4000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 9:01.17; 4500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 10:01.17; 5000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 11:01.17; 5500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 12:01.17; 6000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 13:01.17; 6500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 14:01.17; 7000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 15:01.17; 7500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 16:01.17; 8000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 17:01.17; 8500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 18:01.17; 9000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 19:01.17; 9500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 20:01.17; 10000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 21:01.17; 10500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 22:01.17; 11000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 23:01.17; 11500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 24:01.17; 12000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 25:01.17; 12500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 26:01.17; 13000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 27:01.17; 13500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 28:01.17; 14000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 29:01.17; 14500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 30:01.17; 15000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 31:01.17; 15500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 32:01.17; 16000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 33:01.17; 16500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 34:01.17; 17000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 35:01.17; 17500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 36:01.17; 18000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 37:01.17; 18500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 38:01.17; 19000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 39:01.17; 19500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 40:01.17; 20000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 41:01.17; 20500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 42:01.17; 21000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 43:01.17; 21500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 44:01.17; 22000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 45:01.17; 22500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 46:01.17; 23000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 47:01.17; 23500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 48:01.17; 24000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 49:01.17; 24500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 50:01.17; 25000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 51:01.17; 25500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 52:01.17; 26000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 53:01.17; 26500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 54:01.17; 27000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 55:01.17; 27500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 56:01.17; 28000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 57:01.17; 28500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 58:01.17; 29000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 59:01.17; 29500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 60:01.17; 30000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 61:01.17; 30500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 62:01.17; 31000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 63:01.17; 31500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 64:01.17; 32000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 65:01.17; 32500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 66:01.17; 33000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 67:01.17; 33500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 68:01.17; 34000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 69:01.17; 34500m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 70:01.17; 35000m: 1, W Hynes (Ire) 71:01.17; 35500m: 1, W

CYCLING

Gonzalez prevails in speedy finish

By Peter Bryan

MIGUEL INDURAIN, relaxed after the one rest day in the Tour de France, kept everyone guessing yesterday during most of the 202-kilometre, eleventh stage from Gap to Valence about whether he could or would launch a counter-attack to reassert his authority on the event.

The Spaniard, the only rider to win the race five years in succession, had tempted a few critics — and some ambitious pretenders to his throne — to place a question mark earlier in the week about his ability to reach the finish in Paris and claim his sixth victory.

His failure to take command of the race on its arrival in the foothills of the Alps gave the feeling some credence; unusually, Indurain suffered and had to draw on all his reserves to hold eighth position overall.

Yesterday Indurain went to the line trailing Bjarne Riis, of Denmark, the leader, by 4min

the third climb of the day up to de la Chaux. Though Laurent Brochard joined the leading group, Gonzalez remained well-placed and finished ahead of Gines and Elli.

"I'm surprised but nobody expected me to attack in the last kilometre and that made things easier for me," he said.

Tony Rominger, the world one-hour record-holder and third overall, fell on the descent of the Col des Limouches, the last of the day's mountains. He was able to remount and finished with the main group to hold his third position overall.

The route went northwest from Gap and, while the mountain climbs were not formidable, they started with three third-category tests and were followed by three classified as second category to be tackled in the final 75 kilometres. In all, they were hard enough to invite an attacking day's racing.

Many expected Indurain and his well-drilled Banesto team to take flight somewhere along the narrow roads punctuated by hairpin corners: not in a bid to take over the yellow jersey but rather to indicate that he was chipping away at the lead of the seven riders above him.

The attacks came — but not from Indurain. He and his squad remained comfortably anonymous within the pack of more than 140 who were chasing the breakaway group, happy to let the Telekom team set the pace as it tried to defend Riis and Erik Zabel. Banesto riders were rarely anywhere near the front.

Some of the five went out of the chasers in the last ten kilometres, when they accepted the inevitability that those in front were too far ahead to be caught, although the leading positions were unchanged. Zabel, already with two stage wins to his credit, led the chasers, finishing ninth, and Riis was close behind. Rominger injured his knee in his earlier fall and asked for a doctor to examine him as soon as he arrived at his team's hotel. "It's a bit painful but I'll be all right," he said.

The Swiss, who finished second to Indurain three years ago, is expected to start in the 143-kilometre stage today from Valence to Le Puy-en-Velay, a switchback course with five climbs.

Now past its halfway point, the Tour is down to 140 riders, a loss of 52 since the prologue on June 30. Five retired yesterday, including Max Sciandri, one of five Britons named for the Olympic road race next month. Sciandri was suffering from a recurrence of knee trouble.

Chris Boardman was 47th yesterday, credited with the same time as the main group and 2min 51sec down on the winner. Indurain's stage placing was 67th.



Vialli, the striker signed from Juventus, shares a joke with Gullit during pre-season training yesterday.

FOOTBALL: CHELSEA MANAGER HAPPY WITH SUMMER SIGNINGS

Gullit happy after spending spree

By Russell Kempson

PART of the baggage of being a footballing superstar is the ever-attendant hordes of journalists, supporters and hangers-on. Ruud Gullit, the new Chelsea player-manager, has experienced it and coped with it numerous times before.

Thus, his first press conference in the build-up to the 1996-97 season, at the club's training ground in west London yesterday, turned into no more than a gentle and amiable discussion.

As the jet thundered out of nearby Heathrow, and the inquisitive punters pushed for pole position along with the

reporters, Gullit produced a similarly polished performance to those he gave when a television pundit during Euro 96. His witty sparring with Desmond Lynam, the BBC television anchorman, provided many of the more cerebral duels of the championship.

"It was great fun," Gullit said. "You know all the answers, that was not the difficult part. To be clever as well, that is where the difficulty is. I learnt a lot, though, it was enjoyable."

Gullit's ease under the microscope will hold him in good stead for the rigours ahead in the FA Carling Premiership.

He is happy with his triple plunge into the European transfer market — for Gianluca Vialli, Roberto Di Matteo and Franck LeBoeuf — and does not envisage any more spending for the time being.

"I have got all the players I want for the moment," he said. "I have got the spine of my team and if you have that, you can build around it." He was particularly optimistic that Vialli, from Juventus, would settle in quickly.

"It will be better when he has learnt English," Gullit said. "He has to get a house, then he can become a citizen. He can go shopping, buy

things and start to pick up the language."

Vialli, though barely able to convey his true feelings, made a valiant stab at it. He said: "It is all so different, I feel like a young boy at my first training session, but I am not here to play the star. I am not, how you say, a prima donna. If there is anything I need, I will ask. I don't expect to just be given it."

He, like Gullit, also showed a nice line in humour. When asked by a cameraman to remove his sunglasses, he said: "Why? Do you like my eyes?" Chelsea, at first glance, have made a promising start to a new campaign.

Evans raises stakes for Berger

By Our Sports Staff

THE regular flow of foreign football players into the FA Carling Premiership is likely to continue if the determined efforts of Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, are rewarded. Evans, underpinned by the rejection of a £2.5 million attempt to lure Patrick Berger, the Czech Republic midfielder, to Anfield is preparing to increase his offer to Borussia Dortmund.

However, the German champions may require more persuasion before releasing the player who helped the Czechs to provide a fright for Bayern Munich in the European championship final.

Berger, who scored from the penalty spot before the Czechs bowed to the inevitable at Wembley, would be a cornerstone of Dortmund's campaign in the European Cup Champions' League next season and the Bundesliga club will almost certainly demand a higher transfer fee.

Evans, who may also need to acquire a defender with Rob Jones suffering from back trouble and Steve Harkness sustaining a broken leg, has been casting an eye over Sergi, the Barcelona player.

One player who may be staying in the Premiership, after all, is David Ginola, Newcastle United's French winger. His agent, Oliver

Godalier, yesterday denied saying that the player would be leaving for Barcelona, the new club of former England manager, Bobby Robson, in a £4 million deal.

The reports on Wednesday started intense speculation about the future of Ginola, whose form tailed off towards the end of Newcastle's title challenge last season. Godalier said: "Rumours saying David has already spoken to Barcelona are rubbish."

The Belorussian striker, Peter Kachuro, 23, has joined Sheffield United from Dynamo Minsk for an undisclosed fee. Fabrizio Ravanelli, Middlesbrough's £7.5 million recruit from Italy, will return to

his former club, Juventus, sooner than expected. Bryan Robson's team will tour Italy early next month, including matches at Juventus and Genoa. Meanwhile the Teesside club has denied that Nick Barmby, their England forward, is to join Newcastle.

Seven directors have been removed from the board of Manchester City in one of the biggest shake-ups in the history of the club. City's football and commercial activities will now be supervised by a seven-strong board headed by Francis Lee, the club chairman.

Oleg Romantsev, the Russia coach, resigned yesterday in the wake of his team's poor performances in Euro 96.

ROWING

Young guns hunt medal success in Hazewinkel

By Mike Rosewell
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

GREAT Britain has 16 crews racing in the Nations Cup under-23 championships in Hazewinkel, Belgium, this weekend. All but two of the men's eight and coxed four are London University oarsmen. The outsiders are Rob Latham in the eight and Ed Coode in the coxed four, both from the Newcastle University eight which enjoyed a good run at Henley.

Coode is a 1993 junior world silver medal-winner and is joined in the fours by Dave Beckley, a 1992 junior world gold medal-winner. A late change in the eight sees a schoolboy, Matthew Barrett, from St Edwards, Oxford, in the coxswain's seat.

The men's coxed four and quad are all, bar one, Imperial College athletes. Two of the four, Simon Dennis and Richard Dunn, won junior world bronze medals in the 1994 Great Britain eight.

The double scull of Mark Hammond and Daniel Johnson, both from Nottingham County, were in the 1994 junior bronze medal-winning quad, as was the single sculler, Simon Goodbrand, of Rob Roy, who reached the quarter-finals of the Diamond Sculls at Henley.

The lightweight men's coxed four have the burden of trying to repeat the gold medal-winning performance of last year's crew.

The six-boat women's team also exhibit the successful transition now being made from junior to under-23 level. Ten athletes are former Great Britain juniors, six of them being former medal-winner.

GREAT BRITAIN TEAM: Men: Eight: Bow, P. Barry (Univ of London); 2, E. Jones (Univ of London); 3, R. Latham (Newcastle Univ); 4, E. Jones (Univ of London); 5, S. Goodbrand (Henley); 6, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 7, J. Hughes (Univ of London); 8, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 9, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 10, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 11, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 12, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 13, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 14, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 15, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 16, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 17, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 18, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 19, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 20, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 21, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 22, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 23, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 24, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 25, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 26, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 27, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 28, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 29, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 30, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 31, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 32, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 33, D. Johnson (Nottingham); 34, D. 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CRICKET

New format should make World Cup more competitive

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE controversial, uncompetitive format that undermined cricket's sixth World Cup last winter has been scrapped. A revised schedule, dispensing with orthodox quarter-finals, will take its place when the competition is next staged, in England three years hence.

The changes were endorsed by the annual meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC), which concluded at Lord's yesterday with the draw for the 1999 event. Although 12 countries will again compete, and be divided into two groups of six, only the top three in each group will qualify for the next stage. This will eliminate three Test-playing nations, as against only one under the format used in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The six successful teams will then engage in a second group stage, in which the qualifiers from Group A will play the qualifiers from Group B. Each country will by then have played eight games and the top four, under a cumulative points-scoring system yet to be finalised, will proceed to the knockout semi-finals.

Complex though this sounds, it will be a great deal more effective than the predictable prologue to this year's event and the ICC deserves

applause for recognising the need for change. "We felt the format could be improved upon," David Richards, the chief executive, said, "and of three choices on the table, this was the most viable."

The new format will provide 42 games, an increase of five, staged around England from mid-May to late June. No sponsor has yet been identified for the event, though the Test and County Cricket Board, whose responsibility it will be, should have no difficulty attracting one.

It was confirmed last night that coloured clothing will be used for the first time in international cricket in England, but that there is no provision for floodlit games.

The draw has placed England in the same group as the holders, Sri Lanka. They must also play India, South Africa, Zimbabwe and the runners-up from the 1997 ICC Trophy.

This event, scheduled for Kuala Lumpur next spring, will provide the three Associate-member qualifiers for the World Cup. For the first time, the ICC Trophy has attracted television coverage and the improved profile of the developing countries has been reflected in another significant decision taken this week.

A six-man development committee has been established to expand and improve the game in areas where it lacks funds or sophistication. "The aim is to globalise our game in the same way other sports have done," the ICC chairman, Sir Clyde Walcott, said. "There is so much money in cricket now and it is right that some of it should be set aside for development."

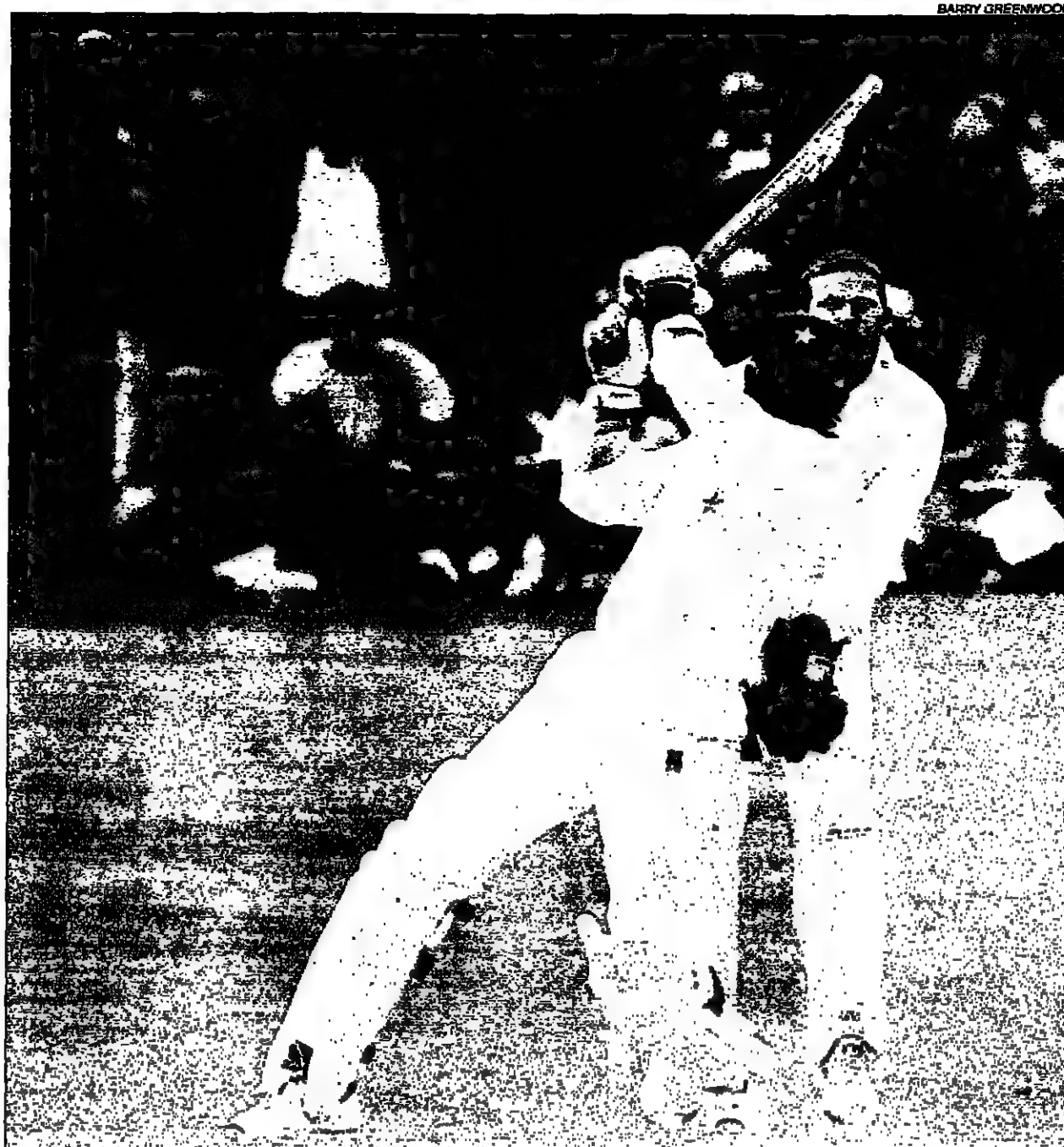
As recommended by Richards, and previously reported in *The Times*, the development project will be chaired by Ali Bacher. It remains possible, however, that Bacher will soon be pressed into higher office as the deadlock continues over a successor to Walcott in a role that will soon lose its figurehead status and gain genuine power.

The constitution of the ICC prevented any decision in the election of the next chairman. Despite his successful lobbying of the associate members, all but three of whom supported him, Jagmohan Dalmiya, the Indian candidate, gained the backing of only three full members and six are needed under the required two-thirds majority.

Ironically, Malcolm Gray, from Australia, was eventually supported by five full members. South Africa abstaining after the withdrawal from a second ballot of their original nomination, Krish Mackerdhui. A separate resolution to extend Walcott's term beyond the coming year was then withdrawn at the wish of Sir Clyde himself.

Walcott, who had earlier ruled against Dalmiya's attempt to introduce legal submissions on the constitution, directed that a fresh election should be held next July. "New candidates are possible and I am being positive when I say I do not expect another deadlock," Walcott said. "This does not show the ICC in a good light." The only persuasive new candidate, one man who could rally the support of both the traditional countries and the subcontinent, is Bacher.

In the meantime, a review committee, chaired by Sir John Anderson from New Zealand, will consider the ICC's antiquated rules, under which it is apparently impossible for officers, or even an elected sub-committee, to make any positive decisions or interventions on a day-to-day basis. "It has become very, very frustrating," Walcott said, with the air of a man who has been taking the blame for someone else's rules.



Aamir Sohail puts the Minor Counties to the sword as he races to 133, his second century of the tour

Pakistanis serve notice of intent

BY SIMON WILDE

STONE (The Pakistanis won toss): The Pakistanis beat Minor Counties by 170 runs

SO THE Indians have departed and the spotlight has turned on to the Pakistanis, the second and — to English eyes — more fearsome touring team of the summer. There were few indications of the change in status yesterday, but then there are few more relaxed places to play cricket than the charming club ground at Stone.

As so often, the Pakistan touring party is enviously laden with talent and, as has not so often been the case, they are striking an impressively united front. Anyone looking for reassuring signs of disunity will be sadly disappointed. In fact, they were charming personified yesterday as they signed autographs for an enthusiastic crowd of 2,000 and graciously accepted gifts from Staffordshire borough council. If their sides rattled the tiles of the only two solid buildings on the ground, they

were blows received in the spirit in which they were given.

The Pakistanis have already produced some awesome individual displays and there were one or two more as they effortlessly outplayed their Minor Counties opponents, who fielded a strong collection of players with first-class county experience. Indeed, when the Pakistanis last toured England, the Minor Counties beat them in a two-day match at Marlow.

The tourists, choosing to bat

first, gave the spectators a full day's entertainment. Having run up a formidable score of 310 for seven, the visitors restricted their opponents to 140 for eight in their 50 overs and could even have finished them off much sooner had they had a mind to.

Aamir Sohail, their vice-captain, scored a scintillating 133 off 102 balls and might have scored many more had he not hit out recklessly after reaching his second century of the tour. He peppered the boundaries with two sixes and

21 fours, five of them in one over from Sargers. The other main contributors were Wasim Akram, with 45 from 43 balls, and Inzamam-ul-Haq, who scored a powerful 41 from 28 balls before retiring with dizziness.

This affliction may have been not unconnected with the touring party's visit 24 hours earlier, to Alton Towers, where they reacquainted themselves with their old pastime: riding roller-coasters. The Pakistani bowling was simply too good for the Minor Counties. Once Wasim, changing down a pronounced slope, made the early breakthrough, the innings quickly turned into a rapid procession, with the spin combination of Saqlain Mushtaq and Mushtaq Ahmed scything through the middle order.

With Laudat nursing a hand injury, the Minor Counties would have been dismissed for considerably less but for some brave tallied blows from Marcus Sharp, also the pick of their bowlers, who batted with Potter throughout the last 19 overs.

SCOREBOARD FROM STONE

PAKISTANIS		MINOR COUNTIES	
Aamir Sohail c Cookson b Fell	133	S J Dean c Mushtaq Ahmed b Wasim	18
Shoaib Akhtar c K Sharp b Laudat	81	R J Evans bow b Wasim	6
Ijaz Ahmed c Satter b Laudat	40	K Sharp b Wasim	6
Inzamam-ul-Haq retired hurt	41	M A Fell c Mushtaq Ahmed b Saqlain	11
Saqlain Mushtaq c K Sharp b Fell	4	"C" Cookson c Satter b Saqlain Mushtaq	11
Wasim Akram c M A Sharp b Sargers	45	S D Mayes c Satter b Mushtaq Ahmed	4
Mushtaq Ahmed c Satter b Laudat	27	I Potter not out	20
Mushtaq Ahmed not out	17	M A Sharp not out	37
Wasim Akram not out	14	Wasim Akram not out	23
Edwards (lb 4, w 6)	6	Edwards (lb 4, w 6)	23
Total (7 wickets, 50 overs)	310	Total (6 wickets, 50 overs)	140
Pakistanis did not bat		Minor Counties did not bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-30, 2-38, 3-39, 4-44, 5-58, 6-72, 7-76, 8-77		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-35, 3-38, 4-44, 5-58, 6-72, 7-76, 8-77	
BOWLING: Sargers 9-1-64-1; M A Sharp 9-2-22-0; Mayes 10-0-46-0; Laudat 10-0-26-2; Potter 9-0-47-0; Fell 9-0-45-2		BOWLING: Sargers 9-1-64-1; M A Sharp 9-2-22-0; Mayes 10-0-46-0; Laudat 10-0-26-2; Potter 9-0-47-0; Fell 9-0-45-2	

Super Eights plan to promote game

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

AUSTRALIA will launch an ambitious campaign today to establish cricket as a leading sport in Asia, but the new eight-a-side format will bear little resemblance to the traditional game.

Australian Cricket Board (ACB) officials have made drastic rule changes for the inaugural Super Eight tournament, to be staged in Kuala Lumpur, and featuring top players from the leading cricketing nations. Super Eights matches will last about two hours, with each side facing a maximum of 14 overs, placing the onus firmly on the batsmen to score runs as quickly as possible.

"The emphasis will be on fast, furious action and fun, while keeping the fundamental nature of the game intact," David Fouvy, the ACB marketing manager, said.

"It makes sense to introduce the basics of what cricket is about in this form rather

than introduce the complexities of 11-a-side Test cricket."

In Super Eights, shots which clear the boundary will be worth eight runs instead of the traditional six, while each player, except the wicket-keeper, must bowl at least one over. A batsman must retire if he scores 50 runs, but he can return to the crease if all the other batsmen have been dismissed.

Australia will field its two strongest teams for the tournament, which also features a Malaysian invitational side — led by Allan Border, the former Australia captain — as well as India, New Zealand and South Africa.

The family of cricketing nations expanded yesterday when Portugal was elected an affiliate member of the International Cricket Council. Nepal was promoted from affiliate to associate status, but France's application to upgrade was deferred for two years.

Edwards offers elixir of youth

Ivo Tennant on the young cricketer giving the England women's team fresh optimism

PILLORYING the England selectors is the favourite sport of the sedentary cricket enthusiast. The clamor call for youth, for energising the team, is one that they have never seemed to hear. Until now, for a 16-year-old girl, that begins today. A 16-year-old girl, that is.

Charlotte Edwards, who has just completed her GCSEs, is the youngest cricketer to have been selected by the England women's team. So precocious is she that she was playing for her county's boys' team at 13 and she now captains the Huntingdonshire under-16 boys. Her brother Daniel, 19, is good enough to play for Huntingdonshire. Her father, Clive, who captained the county and coached her as soon as she could hold a bat, started something, for sure.

At the family farm in Piddley, 17 miles from Cambridge, she insisted on having her fair share of batting. She had an aptitude for the game that enabled her to open the innings when she started to play in a higher age group. "It all started on the lawn when I was four and then I played kwik cricket at school," Edwards said after net practice at Guildford yesterday.

"Because I am 5ft 10in, I find I can drive the ball hard. The boys I captain accept me, but some of the ones I play against sledge me. But I like the challenge."

Her difficulty over the next

few years is that boys will fill out and become stronger than her, which might exclude her from mixed cricket. Her girlfriends do not tease her for spending so much time playing sport with boys — partly, perhaps, because she is adept at other games as well. Hockey, tennis and football are particular favourites. Having now left Ramsey Abbey School, a comprehensive in Cambridgeshire, Edwards is intending to take a course in sports and tourism at Cambridge Regional College. It is, conveniently enough, sited a six-hit or three away from Fenner's, where she goes to watch first-class cricket.

This season, one in which her cricket has been interrupted by her studies, Edwards has averaged around 45. Her top score, 95, was when she represented Cambridge Ladies. She also bowls leg spin, although she feels she will do well to get on in this, the final Test against New Zealand. The first two finished in dull draws, which is another good reason for giving youth its head. "We have known about her for some time and she is very talented," Shirley Taylor, the England manager, said.

Edwards's two favourite cricketers are Ian Brimble, the leading runscorer during the women's World Cup in 1993, who is 37 and also plays today, and Darren Gough, the England fast bowler. She appreciates the coaching of her father, who combines farming with being a potato merchant



Edwards, whose precocious talent earned a Test call

in the Fens. She would like to become a coach herself.

"Charlotte was always very promising," her father said. "Also, she was always big for her age and had tremendous concentration. She was a very good tennis player as a young girl, but then all of a sudden she said she wanted to take up

cricket. She had some coaching from the National Cricket Association and when I taught her in the garden, I told her she was out if she hit across the line. So she learnt how to play in the "V" between mid-off and mid-on. What she has learnt since is to cope with the boys' talk."

MCC keep pressure on deflated tourists

SHENLEY PARK (second day of three): South Africa A, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, need 54 runs to avoid an innings defeat against MCC

MCC are in the driving seat against South Africa A after forcing them to follow on. But, with a more determined display in their second innings, the touring team made it obvious that the home side will have to work hard for victory today.

South Africa resumed yesterday on 31 for two — 360 behind — and offered only sporadic resistance as they were dismissed for 204.

Hugh Morris, the MCC captain, enforced the follow-on and the South Africans then showed far more determination as they closed on 133 for one.

MCC: First Innings 381-7 dec (IG W Flower 98, K L T Arthurton 82, A Flower 70, A I C Dodderidge 62 not out, R Telemachus 4 for 60)

SOUTH AFRICA A: First Innings
G F J Liebenberg c A Flower b Francis 7
N Potgieter b Francis 7
H H Gibbs c Lawson b Croft 57
N Potgieter c G W Flower b Francis 5
D Jockmacdonald b Francis 31
J B Commins c G W Flower b Francis 13
S J Potgieter not out 9
D N Crookes c Strong b Browne 16
I Kruisner c and b Croft 5
R Telemachus c Francis b Strong 8
G J Smith not out 0
Extras (lb 9, lb 21, nb 20) 50
Total 204

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-22, 3-32, 4-114, 5-152, 6-154, 7-189, 8-186, 9-200

BOWLING: Francis 17-0-84-4, Browne 10-0-55-1, Croft 11-2-25-2, Dodderidge 9-2-20-0, Foley 9-3-22-1, Strong 11-3-3-17-1

Second Innings
G F J Liebenberg not out 51
N Potgieter b Foley 62
H H Gibbs not out 14
Extras (lb 9) 6
Total 133

FALL OF WICKET: 1-89
BOWLING: Francis 7-3-17-0, Browne 4-1-10-0, Dodderidge 3-4-15-0, Croft 5-0-20-0, Strong 14-2-42-0, Foley 8-1-29-1

Umpires: R Julian and N P Pevs

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

Go for gold in Atlanta

Your chance to win a VIP trip to the Olympics

The Times, in association with Motorola UK Paging Subscriber Division, one of the sponsors of the games, is offering you the chance to win a holiday for two to see the Olympic Games live in Atlanta.

The winner of our competition and a partner will be flown to Atlanta to spend four nights at the luxury five-star Evergreen Hotel in Stone Mountain. They will also receive two Olympic event tickets for each day. Five runners-up will receive prizes of Motorola Alphanumeric Pagers.

The 1996 Olympic Games, which takes place from July 19 to August 4, will use Motorola's digital two-way radio network — the largest, most sophisticated two-way radio network ever employed at an athletic event. Motorola has also supplied 6,000 Alphanumeric pagers, 1,500 cellular phones, 1,500 computer modems and secure two-way communications equipment to help

meet the diverse communications needs of each event venue.

Alphanumeric Consumer Pagers are the latest way to keep in touch with no connection or call-charges and are fast becoming a lifestyle accessory with more and more people using them socially rather than solely for business purposes.

HOW TO ENTER
You will need to collect three of the six tokens which will be printed in *The Times* this week. Attach them to the entry form (which will appear again tomorrow) with your answer to the question which appears on the form. Post your entry to arrive by first post Wednesday July 17 to the given address. The winner will be the first name selected at random from all correct entries received by the closing date. Normal TNL competition rules apply.

THE TIMES
MOTOROLA
TOKEN 5

Home tie boosts Lancashire double prospects

BY ALAN LEE

LANCASHIRE believe that they can emulate their unique 1990 achievement of winning both knockout competitions this season, and they continue to enjoy the luck of the draw. Two days before attempting the first leg of the double in the Benson and Hedges Cup final, they were given a home tie with Derbyshire in the last eight of the NatWest Trophy.

Although they have now been drawn at Old Trafford in two consecutive rounds of each competition, Mike Watkinson, the Lancashire captain, is in no doubt that they face another stern test. "Derbyshire are playing well. Under Dean Jones, they seem to fancy their chances in more than one competition," he said.

Watkinson is rightly concerned that Lancashire, the bookmakers' favourites for both cups, are living on their nerve ends, having needed boundaries struck by their No 11, Peter Martin, to win the Benson and Hedges semi-final against Yorkshire, and the NatWest tie on Wednesday against Northamptonshire.

DRAW

QUARTER-FINALS	
Lancashire	v Derbyshire
Surrey	v Somerset
Northamptonshire	v Yorkshire
Sussex	v Gloucestershire

Matches to be played on July 30

who they meet again at Lord's tomorrow.

"If we had lost that game we would have been asking some serious questions about how we went about chasing the runs," he said. "We can't keep leaving it to our last man to get us home."

Surrey, who disposed of Warwickshire, the holders, in the second round, are also favoured by a home quarter-final against one of the aspiring outsiders. Somerset will visit the Oval on July 30. Andy Caddick's hat-trick in their five-wicket victory against Gloucestershire having kept them on course for the competition they have long targeted as their best prospect of a trophy this season.

Essex, who have surprisingly won only two Lord's finals and none since 1985, travel to Southampton to play Hampshire, who made such short work of Worcestershire. Arguably the most fascinating tie is at Hove, where Sussex, whose form continues to lurch between the appalling and the irresistible, have an enticingly glamorous visit from Yorkshire, at present the most obvious rivals to their cross-Pennine neighbours to be the team of the season.

The perfect male: so what if he's a fish?

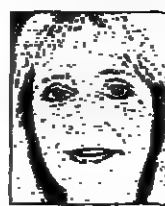
While it may be rude to dismiss an entire alien culture's medical beliefs, have you ever stopped to consider the oddness of the Chinese obsession with potency? "What is wrong with us?" Chinese ask themselves. And looking around at their millions of friends and relations, they come up with the astonishing reply "Impotence". I mention this not to be contentious, but because last night's QED (BBC1) took us — yet again — to the street markets of Hong Kong where another endangered species is sold in powdered form in the cause of sexual success. And it is hard not to be angry. The all too miserable list of bear gall, rhino horn and tiger bone, we must now add seahorse. They say the seahorse makes for life and therefore promotes sexual happiness in those who ingest it. There is a moral here, obviously: behave decently in the animal

kingdom, and you get wiped out. The first 15 minutes of last night's film was very, very charming. Rippling piano music accompanied bubbling amid sea grass in the wild, watched by a marine biologist called Amanda. In the trailers for this programme, Amanda's own future sounded worryingly shaky ("Now under threat of extinction, this woman has dedicated herself...") and I can only hope a grammatical lapse was to blame. Amanda has been studying the seahorses in a small area of Sydney Harbour, and has formed a special bond with Male 97, at the same time as trying to maintain scholarly detachment. But it's obviously hard not to love these widdy creatures. When you hold out a finger to a seahorse, it grips you with its tail. "I've been hand in hand with a fish!" said Amanda. And not everyone can say that.

The attractiveness of the seahorse is not hard to explain. They are delicate and pretty, and they pose vertically like question marks; they entwine tails with each other and mate face-to-face, forming a combined heart-shape in the water. The male carries the young, swells up hugely, and then babies into the water through a hole, like a cartoon saxophone blowing crochets and quavers. Amanda has discovered that the seahorse male stays at home, to be visited daily by the female; and that when the couple see each other, they dance.

The utter inoffensiveness of these creatures made their appeal even more upsetting. Of course, while trying hard not to imbue them with human feelings, Amanda couldn't help telling us that seahorses are so wrapped up in each other, they even ignore guests. (Friends get fed up with this, presumably, and stop com-

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

ing.) Whether Marianne in *Sense and Sensibility* ever heard about the seahorse I can't say, but she would certainly be quoting "Let us not to the marriage of true minds admit impediment" with tears in her eyes if she did.

After the delightful, dream-like marine section of the programme, QED pursued the question of seahorse depletion, and followed Amanda to the Philippines —

failing to notice the irony of the name Philip deriving from "lover of horses" — where the seahorse is fished to extinction. A clever and original conservation compromise has been hatched there, by which the fishermen still catch seahorses, but let them breed as usual. It looked excellent, but I couldn't help wondering whether instead of going to all this trouble to serve the Chinese market, there might not be a simpler way of stemming demand — by spreading an ugly rumour, for instance, that the seahorse hates sex and does it badly. If it would only sacrifice its shining reputation, you see, the seahorse might save its skin.

Elsewhere last night, the BBC channels were less inspiring. *Vid-eo Diaries* (BBC2) was dull, even *Men Behaving Badly* (BBC1) had fewer laughs than usual. But particularly bemusing was Sir (BBC2), a half-hour history lesson at 7.30pm told by means of letters

to the Times in 1913 and 1914. The letters were well chosen, well illustrated with photos and news-reel footage — also brilliantly read by a starchy cast of actors — but either I missed the first five minutes or there was absolutely no preamble. It just launched in to the Irish question, with the implication that you could either like it or lump it, your choice.

So it was rather unusual television; more like choosing random selections from a CD-Rom. I loved George Bernard Shaw's letter demanding an end to Shakespeare's birthday ("How many birthdays does he want?"), and the grim warnings of a pedantic "Hydra", pointing out that "fix up" was inexcusably replacing the simpler "fix". Humane Goller urged the routine distribution of hot soup to caddies; a railway traveller pointed to the superiority of compartment heat-

ing on the Continent; Annie Besant championed Indian independence; and eminent doctors decried the force-feeding of jailed suffragettes. Meanwhile (of course), war loomed, Home Rule pressed, and female suffrage refused to go away. It was all jolly interesting. My only quibble was with the irritating "Hydra" character, whose whole letter in each case before attributing it. Radio 4 sometimes makes the same stylistic decision, and I must confess recent readings from *The Virago Book of Women* Gardeners found me hopping with rage for five minutes at a time — "Who wrote this? Who? Who?" Compounding matters, the reader recovers the end and announces "John Galsworthy" as if it's the answer to a quiz. This gives you no time to match the name to the sentiments before the next pointless torture begins. I had no idea I felt so strongly. Perhaps I should write a letter to *The Times*.

BBC1

- 5.00am Business Breakfast (43366) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (CeeFax) (81947) 9.00am BBC News Extra (CeeFax)
- 12.00 Ready, Steady, Cook! (s) (620015) 9.50 Wildlife on One: Springbok of the Kalahari (r) (CeeFax) (s) (738492)
- 12.00 FILM: Letter from an Unknown Woman (1948) Classic cinema melodrama with Joan Fontaine and Louis Jourdan. Directed by Max Ophüls (5621638) N.I. 12.20pm Lit by Love and Sunshine 10.55 Our Roving Reporter 11.00 News 11.00 The Twelfth
- 1.50 Holiday Outings: Tunisia (r) (9648218) 1.00 News (CeeFax) (2581015)
- 1.00pm The Noble Guide: To Englishness (r) (2946473)
- 1.35 Neighbours (CeeFax) (s) (9065251)
- 1.40 One O'Clock News (CeeFax) (64034)
- 3.0 Regional News and weather (12663251)
- 4.00 Even More of Glynn Christian's Entertaining Microcosm (12603015)
- 4.55 Lovejoy: Eric of Arabia (r) (4522034)
- 1.45 FILM: Perry Mason: The Case of the All-Star Assassin (1989) with Raymond Burr. Perry defends an injured professional hockey star. Directed by Christian I. Nyby (822838)
- 1.15 Knots Landing (r) (7323251) 5.05 Clothes Show Scotland (7823164)
- 5.35 Neighbours (r) (CeeFax) (s) (744152)
- 3.00 News (CeeFax) and weather (183)
- 3.30 Regional News magazines (763)
- 7.00 Top of the Pops (CeeFax) (6725)
- 7.30 CHANCE Future Fantastic: How the transport of the future could include flying cars and even teleports (CeeFax) (s) (947)
- 8.00 The Olympic Game. Steve Rider hosts the sports quiz with team captains Daley Thompson and Steve Cram (CeeFax) (s) (5473)
- 8.30 Big Break (CeeFax) (4980)
- 9.00 News (CeeFax) (5218)
- 9.30 One Foot in the Grave. Victor and Margaret's lives become even more glib when they are trapped in their garden shed by a swarm of bees (r) (CeeFax) (s) (59251)
- 10.00 CHANCE Chicago Hope: Life Support. The first of a new series of the American medical drama. The doctors inform a man in his thirties, awaiting a heart transplant, that they have decided to give the donor heart to another patient. With Mandy Patinkin and Adam Arkin (422783) N.I. 10.00 The Twelfth 10.35 Chicago Hope 11.20 FILM: The Way We Were (1968) starring Barbra Streisand and Robert Redford. Love story about a political activist and a wealthy socialite. Starting in the early 1930s, the film charts their relationship across 20 years. Directed by Sydney Pollack (7015929)
- 12.40 FILM: The Grip of the Stranger (1958) with Boris Karloff. A mystery writer investigates the case of a murderer hanged 20 years before. Directed by Robert Day (CeeFax) (3744228)
- 1.55am Weather (5891865)

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SKY MOVIES GOLD

- 12.00am Severn of the Bride (1958) (50385) 4.00 The Great Escape (1963) (50385) 8.00 The Great Escape (1963) (50385) 12.00 The Great Escape (1963) (50385)
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BBC2

- 6.00am The Learning Zone: Open University: Sealing the Salt Barrier (613015) 6.25 18th-Century Venice and Answer (6142522) 6.50 Ferrara (609783) 7.15 See Hear: Breakfast News (4336270) 7.30 Smurfs' Adventure (9381218) 7.55 Best Bits of Johnny Ball (r) (CeeFax) (s) (5104657) 8.20 Secret Life of Toys (r) (s) (5652298)
- 8.40 The Record (6078183) 9.05 Great Depression (CeeFax) (2950760) 10.00 Playdays (r) (6763251) 10.25 Man in a Suitcase (CeeFax) (r) (413724) 11.15 Addams Family (r) (CeeFax) (6401781) 11.40 Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century (2901251) 12.05pm The Phil Spector Show (r) (7647283) 1.15 A-Z of Food (72202473) 1.25 West & Wolf (76469638) 1.40 The Oprah Winfrey Show (CeeFax) (2591883) 2.20 Open View (38850367) 2.25 Blooming Lovely (38673218) 2.35 Time of Your Life (r) (7642783) 2.55 Holiday Outings (r) (4832034)
- 3.00 News (CeeFax) (6573270) 3.05 The Natural World (6480164) 3.55 News (2011184)
- 4.00 Cartoon (7667102) 4.05 Funnies (r) (7669473) 4.10 To Me...to You (CeeFax) (5065270) 4.35 Classics (r) (CeeFax) (5453725) 5.00 Newsworld (CeeFax) (844367) 5.15 Record Breakers (r) (CeeFax) (7303222)
- 5.35 Goodfella — All Terrain Enduro. A look at one of Australia's toughest off-road races (r) (544134)
- 6.00 The Champions. Fantasy espionage series (CeeFax) (476541)
- 6.50 FILM: The Man Who Never Was (1956) starring Clifton Webb. Based on a true story, this wartime drama re-enacts how a British intelligence officer planned to fool the Germans into thinking the Allies were planning to invade Greece, not Sicily, in the spring of 1943. Directed by Ronald Neame (CeeFax) (18214838)
- 8.30 Gardeners' World (CeeFax) (s) (2522)
- 9.00 Dawn and Jennifer's Comedy Zone. This week, Dawn chooses an episode of Dad's Army entitled *Mercy from the Deep* and an episode of the American comedy series *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* (CeeFax) (s)
- 10.00 Friday Night Armistice. Satirical comedy show (40015)
- 10.30 Newsnight (CeeFax) (191541)
- 11.15 Oh Brother, The Voice of the Turtle. The pilot episode of the 1980s comedy series starring Derek Nimmo (187744) Followed by Weatherwise
- 11.50 Later Presents Elvis Costello in Concert. Another chance to see this live set first shown last Saturday (s) (880522). Ends 1.05am

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EUROSPORT

- 7.00am Sailing (38386) 8.00 Motors (11541) 9.00 Cycling (40812) 10.00 Ice Hockey (115204) 11.00 Tennis (115204) 12.00 Football (115204) 1.00 Live Formula 1 (64544) 2.00 Live Cycling (1348729) 4.00 Tennis (1348729) 6.00 Formula 1 (64544) 7.00 Live Football (1348729) 8.00 Live Formula 1 (64544) 9.00 Live Football (1348729) 10.00 Live Formula 1 (64544) 11.00 Live Football (1348729) 12.00 Live Formula 1 (64544) 1.00 Live Football (1348729) 2.00 Live Formula 1 (64544) 3.00 Live Football (1348729) 4.00 Live Formula 1 (64544) 5.00 Live Football (1348729) 6.00 Live Formula 1 (64544) 7.00 Live Football (1348729) 8.00 Live Formula 1 (64544) 9.00 Live Football (1348729) 10.00 Live Formula 1 (64544) 11.00 Live Football (1348729) 12.00 Live Formula 1 (64544) 1.00 Live Football (1348729) 2.00 Live Formula 1 (64544) 3.00 Live Football (1348729) 4.00 Live Formula 1 (64544) 5.00 Live Football (1348729) 6.00 Live Formula 1 (64544) 7.00 Live Football (1348729) 8.00 Live Formula 1 (64544) 9.00 Live 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Woosnam comes storming home

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a golfer in mid-swing. The golfer is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved shirt and is captured in a dynamic pose, with his arms extended and the golf club raised high. The background is filled with a dense crowd of spectators, their faces partially visible in the foreground, creating a sense of being at a live event. The image has a grainy, high-contrast quality, typical of older newspaper prints.

**TODAY IN
THE TIMES**

**A FREE 16-PAGE
BRITISH GRAND
PRIX GUIDE**

Changing world, page 41
Youthful approach, page 41

A 25x25 crossword puzzle grid. The grid consists of white squares for letters and black squares for empty space. The numbers 1 through 25 are placed in the starting squares of the words, indicating the row and column for each word's beginning. The numbers are distributed as follows: 1 (row 1, col 1), 2 (row 1, col 2), 3 (row 1, col 3), 4 (row 1, col 4), 5 (row 1, col 5), 6 (row 1, col 6), 7 (row 1, col 7), 8 (row 1, col 8), 9 (row 1, col 9), 10 (row 1, col 10), 11 (row 1, col 11), 12 (row 1, col 12), 13 (row 1, col 13), 14 (row 1, col 14), 15 (row 1, col 15), 16 (row 1, col 16), 17 (row 1, col 17), 18 (row 1, col 18), 19 (row 1, col 19), 20 (row 1, col 20), 21 (row 1, col 21), 22 (row 1, col 22), 23 (row 1, col 23), 24 (row 1, col 24), 25 (row 1, col 25).

DOWN

- 1 Take away (6)
- 2 Death, made by *bare bodkin* (*Hamlet*) (7)
- 3 Bury; i.e. football team (5)
- 4 A toast; *infested barns* (*Janag*) (6, 7)
- 5 Or; a threatened layer (5)
- 6 One bare for choice (6)
- 8 Military pageant (6)
- 14 Cloth for dinner (6)
- 15 Release; carry and hand over (7)
- 16 Of the mind (6-); 1960 horror film (6)
- 17 Of (trivial) iron (6)
- 19 Cancel (5)
- 21 Put forward (as fact) (5)

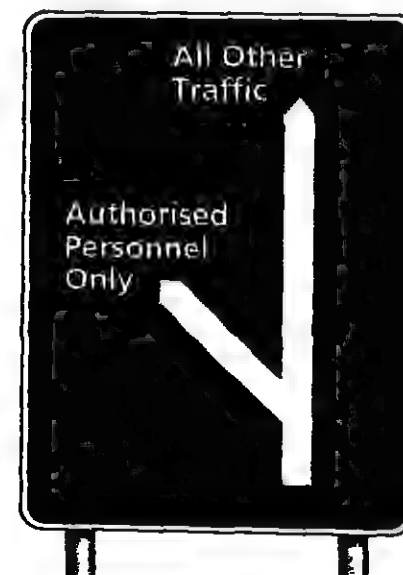
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THE TIMES CROSSWORDS: Books 3a, 3b, 10, 11 £3.99 each. Books 14 to 16 £9.99 each. **The Times Crossword 1999:** Books 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817

Scheckter's legacy, page 40



Wiseman: surprise choice



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Spain will not be caught napping

MPs to vote on colony's forgotten war widows

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

AMONG Hong Kong's mighty problems, 28 old ladies seem inconsequential. What are they compared to the 1997 handover, the abolition of the Legislative Council, the shredding of the Bill of Rights, the flight of 1,000 people a week for anywhere else, and the reputation of Chris Patten, the Governor?

But the rapidly dwindling band of war widows, whose shameful case comes up again in the Commons today — in the Hong Kong (War Wives and Widows) No 2 Bill — is a matter of British honour. The issue for MPs is simple: will these women, whose husbands — local Hong Kong men who fought the Japanese in defence of empire, who were imprisoned, and sometimes tortured and beheaded by their captors — be given British passports as promised to them, during visits here, by John Major and Robin Cook, the shadow industry spokesman.

The Bill, after years of stalling, was supposed to sail through in May. It never got to the vote. Robert Ainsworth, a Labour MP and whip, explained during a visit to Hong

Kong that when his colleague Nick Brown blocked the Bill it was "retaliation" for a Tory manoeuvre the previous week on a Bill also involving women. Later on the same day, when Mr Ainsworth had been alerted to the import of what he had revealed, he denied that what had happened to the Bill was "tit for tat" and blamed bad parliamentary communication.

Since that infamous day in May, when there were 29 widows, three have died: Lillian Leonard, Gracinda Edwards and Dorothy Ribiero. And two more widows have been tracked down: Chu Sau-ying and Leung Yuk-mai. That the three widows did not live to receive passports is Britain's fault. That there are two newly-discovered women is not due to official British sleuthing.

Whatever the widows do receive, eventually, is down to the efforts of Jack Edwards, a 78-year-old veteran and former PoW, who has fought their battle for years. It was the Welsh Mr Edwards, an implacable white-haired figure on every Remembrance Day at Hong Kong's cen-



Howard: wrote letter to veterans' widows

taph, with a chest covered with medals and displaying a battered British flag buried during the occupation, who wept with joy outside Hong Kong's Government House in spring after a private audience with Mr Major and Governor Patten, who assured him the widows would get their passports. He was equally elated with the even more specific assurances from Robin Cook.

And it was Mr Edwards, who after the May debacle — which he heard about after the funeral of Dorothy Ribiero — said: "I'm disgusted and ashamed to be British."

Less than a decade ago Mr Edwards finally managed to procure British passports for the surviving veterans themselves, and it is he who combs the military cemeteries here for "pals" who have been overlooked, lost, or ignored. Such was Chan King, who did underground work for a loosely-organised unit called the British Army Aid Group, which operated behind Japanese lines. He was betrayed and executed. Jack Edwards found Chan's gravestone, bearing one of his alternative names. His widow is Leung Yuk-mai. Recently, he also discovered Idris Curreen, 85,

a surviving veteran, whose wife Chu Sau-ying now qualifies for a passport.

Norah Castro, 91, is the widow of A.E.H. "Teddy" Castro, who died five years ago. A veteran of the Hong Kong Volunteers, who like their counterparts in Singapore were ordered to buy time with their lives during the Japanese invasion which caught Britain unprepared. He left prison after almost five years, blind in one eye, and remained an invalid until his death. Ms Castro lives on a pension of 5,000 Hong Kong dollars a month — about £420 — which might pay for two nights in a central hotel.

In 1994 Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to whom Governor Patten had regularly appealed, wrote to each of the then-surviving war widows, mentioning "your late husband's services in defence of Hong Kong" and promising the widows could come to Britain and stay as long as they liked, if they had not remarried.

Ms Castro, who like the other widows is not keen to live in Britain but knows about principle, in her polite way snorts at this: "So I could go there like any other emigrant and after a number of years I could ask to become a citizen. My husband fought for Hong Kong. Why not just give us the passports? It could happen so easily."

Countess Mountbatten of Burma, an ally of Mr Edwards, wrote to Mr Major in 1994 that "it came as a great shock to me to learn that it was only after many years of intense pressure that Government finally agreed to give British passports to the ex-prisoners of war who suffered so dreadfully for our country." She added that denying the war widows "puts us in a very poor light as far as a great many people in that part of the world are concerned."

Jack Edwards is more blunt. To the argument of Michael Howard and others that admitting the old ladies would "open the floodgates", he replies: "What other colony has been handed over to a Communist country?"

Fury as immigration chief steps down

Hong Kong: Legislators here have accused the Government of launching a cover-up over the surprise resignation of the territory's immigration chief.

Members say they might try to reconvene the Legislative Council, which is in recess, to set up an inquiry into the sudden departure of Lawrence Leung, the Director of Immigration.

He announced his resignation last weekend, citing personal reasons. In an unusual move, his decision became effective immediately. Ronald Arculli, a Legislative Councilor, told government radio: "We smell something".

Lu Ping, Peking's top official on Hong Kong affairs,

called the decision "very sudden" and "unusual", and called on the colonial Government to disclose full details about the case.

Mr Leung, 55, said he had stepped down because of mental exhaustion partly provoked by the murder of his daughter in Canada in 1993.

Lam Woon-kwong, the Secretary for the Civil Service, infuriated legislators yesterday by refusing to say whether the Government had asked Mr Leung to retire.

The Hong Kong media have suggested that he was forced to quit because of his access to personal files and alleged closeness to the Chinese side (AFP)

HONG KONG COUNTDOWN



Choi Seung Chan, a North Korean brick factory worker, looking drawn and haggard, who swam to the South in a daring escape because, he said yesterday, people in his country were being treated like dogs and pigs.

"It is not just the shortage of food, I came here because North Korea is not a place where people can live. North Korea treats people like dogs and pigs and controls them so much that the place is like a prison," he said. "I decided

Defector in sea ordeal

to go to the South, since I believed that I would die either way."

Mr Choi, who left behind his wife and daughter, said people in North Korea were starving to death. He was speaking to reporters while being liquidated in a room at the Defence Ministry. He was picked up in waters

around the South Korean-held island of Kanghwa in the Imjin river estuary on the western coast. "I caught crabs and ate them. I think something was wrong with them because I now have a stomach ache," he said.

His escape took three days and he used three bicycle inner-tubes to stay afloat. "I lived under the mountains in Kaesong and I saw every day one to two people who died from starvation being buried," he said. (Reuters)

Backpacker jury told wrong man is in dock

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE defence completed its summing up in the backpacker murder trial yesterday by accusing one of Ivan Milat's brothers of killing seven hitchhikers.

Terry Martin said the finger of suspicion pointed to Richard Milat and not the roadworker, 51, who is charged with all seven murders. He reminded the jury that Richard Milat had allegedly told workmates: "There are more bodies out there," after two British victims were found in the Belanglo State Forest.

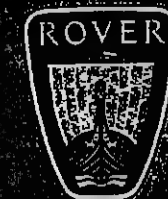
The brother was also reported as saying, "Stabbing a woman is like cutting a loaf of bread." Items belonging to the victims had been found in Richard Milat's locker at his mother's home, Mr Martin said. Hairs found in one of the victim's hand had not matched those of Ivan Milat.

"If you just look at Richard Milat himself and the manner he's conducted himself in this case, do you not think it's reasonably possible he was the killer and not Mr Milat?" Mr Martin asked the jury.

On the question of evidence such as rifle parts used in the murders and found at Ivan Milat's home, the defence claimed it was reasonable to assume they had been planted there. "Do you think that a person capable of this most brutal crime would give two hoots about planting gear on a brother?" he said.

Mr Martin recalled that Ivan Milat also had an alibi for Boxing Day 1991, when two German backpackers disappeared. "If you find all seven murders were committed by the same person, you must acquit Ivan Milat," Mr Martin said.

Ivan Milat has pleaded not guilty to the murder of seven backpackers, including Joanne Walters from Mid-Glamorgan, and Caroline Clarke from Northumberland. He has also denied kidnapping Paul Onions, another Briton.



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CHARLES TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Pressure grows to hit back at US over Cuba curbs

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Clinton Administration faced furious protests from Britain and other allies yesterday over its implementation of a new law punishing foreign companies deemed to be using confiscated American property in Cuba.

Sources in Washington also disclosed that John Major sent President Clinton a private letter this week complaining strongly about the Helms-Burton Act which the Government considers a violation of international law and trading agreements.

On Wednesday the State Department sent letters to Rupert Pennant-Rea, Sir Patrick Sheehy and other senior executives of Sherritt International, a Canadian mining company with extensive Cuban interests, saying they were to be banned from America.

The Foreign Office described the move as "a wrong-headed restriction on their

freedom to travel and to do business". The Government said it would take up vigorously with the Administration the cases of Mr Pennant-Rea, former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, and Sir Patrick, former chairman of British American Tobacco.

In a speech to the American Chamber of Commerce in London yesterday, Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, strongly condemned the Administration's "senseless" decision to exclude the two men.

He said that the Government was under "considerable pressure" to introduce counter-measures against American companies, and this was likely to grow as a result of Wednesday's events.

Mr Lang also demanded that Mr Clinton waive another provision of the law, known as Title III, that would allow American citizens whose prop-

erties were expropriated during the 1959 Cuban revolution to sue foreign companies deemed to be exploiting those properties.

Mr Clinton must decide by Monday whether to exercise that right. A high-level inter-departmental meeting was being held at the White House last night to discuss the issue.

The State Department was said to be anxious to avoid upsetting America's allies any further, but waiving the provision would expose Mr Clinton to the accusation of being soft on Cuba in an election year and could cost him the crucial state of Florida.

Canadian officials said Jean Chrétien, the Prime Minister, would be sending a strong letter of protest to Mr Clinton this week. The Canadian Government is also preparing retaliatory action and will be invoking the disputes mechanism of the North American Free Trade Agreement.



King Hussein of Jordan at a news conference yesterday. He said he expected Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, to visit Amman next week.

Christian convert to leave Kuwait

By EYE-ANN PRENTICE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

ROBERT HUSSEIN, the Kuwaiti who fears for his life after converting from Islam to Christianity, plans to live in America after being promised a new passport by the emirate's authorities.

Mr Hussein's identity papers and passport were stolen from his house after an Islamic court ruled that he was an apostate.

Islamic lawyers said he should be killed. He was forcibly divorced from his wife, cannot see his two young children and his building business is in ruins.

After a deluge of protests from Christian groups in Britain and America, the Kuwaiti Government yesterday said that it guaranteed Mr Hussein's safety.

"As to what has been said about this Kuwaiti citizen being subjected to persecution and death threats due to his conversion from Islam to Christianity, this is baseless," government legal advisers told the *Kuwait Times*.

But Dr Simon Qadri, of Christian Solidarity International in London, said: "They have not provided police protection, as they promised, or discouraged the fundamentalists... they cannot afford to anger the fundamentalists."

Mr Hussein, speaking from hiding yesterday, said: "I am moving from one place to another even as we speak. They cannot make statements saying I am safe when I know I am not. They promised to give me a new passport, then keep asking me to come back to their offices again and again. I have told them... people will see me coming and going."

The Foreign Office is monitoring the case of Barnabas Benjamin, a British pilot who resigned from Kuwait Airways in protest at the Islamic court ruling and who was held after putting up posters in Kuwait City about Mr Hussein.

Americans alerted to Saudi dangers

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

AMERICANS in Saudi Arabia have been warned to take extra security precautions in response to continuing threats of terrorist attacks on American bases and other places frequented by foreigners in the kingdom.

The US Embassy in Riyadh has received reports suggesting further attacks after last month's explosion at the barracks near Dhahran that killed 19 Americans. Individual Americans and US companies in Saudi Arabia have received threatening calls.

Americans in Riyadh reported feverish activity to impose a strict security crackdown. They said concrete blocks, watch towers and floodlights have been placed round several compounds where Americans live. Armoured vehicles driven by the Saudi National Guard are patrolling streets.

Residents said the measures are far more thorough than those imposed last November after a bomb killed five Americans and two Indians. Saudi police checkpoints have barred entry to all vehicles on Talaat Street, a main thoroughfare of boutiques in the capital.

An embassy statement addressed to 35,000 American civilians and 5,000 members of the armed forces advised them to keep a low profile, reduce their travel inside Saudi Arabia and report any suspicious activity or vehicles. □ London: Sheikh Muhammad bin Ibrahim bin Jubair, head of a Saudi parliamentary delegation, said after a meeting with John Major that elections were contrary to the teachings of Islam.

He said that the newly appointed Majlis al-Shura, Saudi Arabia's Consultative Council, would not become an elected body or admit women to its ranks.

Leading article, page 4

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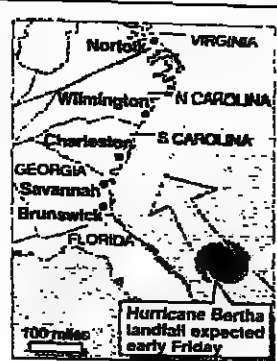
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US Navy sets sail to ride out worst of Bertha

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN warships hurriedly left the major naval base of Norfolk, Virginia, to escape Hurricane Bertha yesterday.

US Navy officers ordered their vessels to take to sea where they would be safer than in port. "Best place is at sea," said Commander Paul Weishaupf. The manoeuvre will save ships being thrown against the dock wall.

Bertha had earlier changed course, no longer posing a threat to Florida. Instead, the storm appears to be heading for the coast of North Carolina, which expects to be hit today. Hundreds of thousands of residents were advised to leave houses and move inland, away from the high seas that are expected to flood low-lying areas. The arrival of the hurricane was predicted to coincide with high tide.

Throughout the day, winds increased along the coast of the Carolinas and hurricane watches were posted up into Virginia. President Clinton, whose official aircraft was hit by bad turbulence in a summer storm, cancelled a flight south from Washington to Florida and ground crew at NASA wheeled the space shuttle Atlantis into a hurricane-proof hangar. Southbound trains were cancelled, and petrol stations reported long queues as people filled cars to escape the looming tempest.

As the hurricane barreled north from the Bahamas, scientists from the US National Hurricane Centre said that the storm was still blowing at 100mph. Some North Carolinians declined to move from their homes, but emergency workers made door-to-door searches and pleaded with citizens to "see sense and skedaddle".

Perot enters White House race for the second time

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ROSS PEROT, the temperamental Texas billionaire, shook up America's presidential election yesterday by announcing that he will run again this year, provided his new Reform Party nominates him. That it will do so seems almost inevitable.

"We have to be responsive to the people who created this party, and they have a strong desire for me to participate," Mr Perot declared on CNN's *Larry King Live* show, the forum where he announced his 1992 candidacy.

"Certainly," he replied, when asked if he would accept his party's nomination. "I think it is pretty obvious now, I am dedicated to this country, I am dedicated to our children and grandchildren, and I will continue to make whatever sacrifices are necessary." He vowed to do "whatever it takes" to win.

Mr Perot spent \$60 million (£38.5 million) to win 19 million votes in 1992, the best performance by an independent candidate since 1924, and greatly assisted President Clinton's victory by splitting the Republican vote.

Since then his popularity has waned, but he is still a magnet for the disaffected, attracting about 15 per cent in most polls, and could well have a critical impact on this year's race between Bill Clinton and Bob Dole, the leading Republican challenger.

Haley Barbour, the Republican chairman, has said that "a vote for Perot is a vote to re-elect Clinton", but recent polls suggest Mr Perot's remaining supporters are mainly younger, poorer, less educated Americans — natural Democrats. Several polls have shown Mr Perot would take votes equally from Mr Clinton and Mr Dole.

Mr Clinton professed indifference when told of Mr Perot's announcement while golfing in North Carolina.

"That's interesting. Let me tell you about my golf game," he replied. Mr Dole displayed greater concern, telling a radio interviewer: "I would hope he wouldn't run. I would hope it would be a two-man race." Mr Perot, a small man with a giant ego, made his intentions clear just one day after Richard Lamm, a former Colorado Governor, announced that he was seeking the Reform Party's nomination.

Mr Perot called Mr Lamm a "fine man", but argued: "If anybody should do this, I should do it. I am in a unique position to do it. A lot of people

who would want to do it and might even be better doing it aren't in a position to do it, wouldn't have the freedom to do it. I have that freedom."

That was an apparent reference to the difference in the two men's financial resources. Mr Perot could fund his campaign either from his vast personal fortune or with the \$32 million in federal funds for which he is eligible on the basis of his 1992 performance. Mr Lamm has just \$6,000 in his war chest, and the Federal Election Commission has yet to decide whether the \$32 million could be transferred to a Reform Party nominee other than Mr Perot.

The Reform Party this week sent its 1.3 million members ballot papers listing only Mr Perot and Mr Lamm, though members can add other names. Anyone receiving more than 10 per cent support will be invited to address a nominating convention in Long Beach, California, on August 11. Members will then cast their final votes and the nominee will be announced when the convention reconvenes in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, a week later.

Mr Lamm will almost certainly receive the requisite 10 per cent, but appears to stand little chance of defeating Mr Perot. But he insisted Reform Party members were "bigger than Perot. Even if he runs I stand a chance".

□ *Gus Uthman:* In a policy switch, Mr Dole has abandoned his pledge to lead the fight to overturn a ban imposed two years ago on semi-automatic assault weapons. "We've moved beyond the debate over banning assault weapons," he told police officers in Virginia.

Instead, he argued, the emphasis should be on instant computer background checks to reject all would-be gun buyers with criminal records.



Perot could lay claim to \$32 million federal funds



The statue of Arthur Ashe, which this week joined the ranks of Confederate heroes on Monument Avenue in Richmond, Virginia. A handful of white demonstrators protested during the dedication of the statue of Wimbledon's first black men's champion, but about 2,000 other people cheered (Ian Brodie writes). Rich-

A champion's last stand

mond, once the capital of the Southern Confederacy, was where Ashe was barred as a youth from playing on segregated tennis courts. By giving Ashe such a place of honour, Monument Avenue

has been transformed into an "avenue for all people", said Douglas Wilder, America's first black Governor. Southern prejudices and racial controversy have surrounded the siting of the statue since soon after Ashe died from AIDS three years ago. He contracted the illness after a blood transfusion.

Olympic Britons win Southern hearts and minds

FROM TOM RHODES IN TALLAHASSEE

FOR the past few days Alana Kousaleos, a ten-year-old American, has been dreaming of her dinner this weekend with a British Olympic gymnast in her home city of Tallahassee, Florida.

The meeting will mark the culmination of her fascination and hero worship for Lee McDermott, 22, from Shropshire, who has been embraced by her family as part of an adoption programme instituted by the state capital over three summers preceding the Atlanta Games.

"I told my dad he will have dinner with me. I'm very excited and I don't care where he takes me," Alana said yesterday as she poured over every detail of the McDermott statistics. "I would love to become an Olympic gymnast."

Alana is one of hundreds of locals who have paid \$25 (£16) to enter an "adoption service" that probably has brought the British athletes closer to their host community than at any time in Olympic history. The team is using Tallahassee as its base during the Games and will travel to the Olympic village in Atlanta, Georgia, four hours by bus to the north, for their events.

In the previous two years, there were private dinner parties, barbecues and photographic sessions. It has been a combination of corporate interest and private infatuation. The Honda dealership, for instance, has adopted entire teams, including the women pentathletes and the equestrians. Carl Duke, on the other hand, spent his dollars on the man he hopes is a winner, Linford Christie, the sprinting maestro.

"I've never met the man but I really hope I will this time," said Mr Duke, 65. "If he took

me to dinner, well that would be absolutely outstanding. I can't tell you how much I admire this guy."

It may be harder this year, however. The British Olympic Association (BOA) has issued strenuous edicts that athletes must have privacy for final training with their coaches in the dazzling sporting complex provided by Florida State University.

The locals remain undaunted. Next week they will receive what many consider to be the ultimate accolade when the Princess Royal, president of the BOA and a former Olympian, will make a detour en route to Atlanta to visit Tallahassee for a unique act of commemoration.

In a tree-lined courtyard next to City Hall, the names of almost 1,000 British athletes, trainers and others who have visited the city over three years are inscribed on a series of paving bricks. The monument has become known locally as the Tallahassee equivalent of Hollywood's Walk of Fame.

The Princess will dedicate a podium at its centre and, in the minds of the people of Tallahassee at least, cement a relationship they hope will continue long into the millennium.

"It's a pretty big deal for us that the Princess has accepted our invitation, and I think this will serve as a focal point for the exceptional alliance between Britain and Tallahassee," said Christopher Campbell, chairman of the committee that has overseen the regular visits of the British team.

"We've kept space in the middle for all the medalists. There are 82 slots there — that's the number the BOA has promised us."

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THE HOUSE OF TENNESSEE WHISKEY

A city with its nose in the air



DIOR: Eastern sparkle from Gianfranco Ferré



CHANEL: breathtaking beadwork



VALENTINO: still the favoured couturier

PARIS

The great fashion houses show that haute couture is all about showing off

WHEN the legendary fashion photographer Irving Penn was sent to Paris to cover the collections in the 1940s the showings were at night and the invitations specified black tie. "There was no mob of paparazzi, no loud music, just little gold chairs, champagne — very civilised," he remembers. "Then the girls came out, and they were so snooty to the audience. It was wonderful."

Penn would just love the British-born model Honor Fraser (pictured wearing Christian Lacroix), who was the toast of the autumn/winter 1996-97 haute couture presentations in Paris earlier this week. Fraser has developed her snootier-than-thou look into something of an art form: a raised eyebrow here, a glance down her fine nose there, and a withering stare which left the hardest of fashion doyens asking: "Who does she think she is?"

Yet Fraser was wonderful. Her attitude just right — haute couture is all about showing off. The well-to-do customers get the chance to show off in



LACROIX: playing the wrong tunes



VERSACE: fake fur stoles and complicated styles

their exclusive clothes designed by couturiers who are madly showing off their abundant skills (or more precisely the skills of the cutters, seamstresses, tailors, embroiderers and beaders).

These are "to-die-for" clothes, and it is the execution which really counts. No matter how simple they may appear, it's the one million hours it took to bead a dress, the billion feathers used to

cover a jacket, or the zillion metres of tulle pleated into a skirt, that elicit gasps. These displays of technical wizardry certainly deserve applause but they occasionally threaten to take over the show.

Gianni Versace is a very clever designer, yet there were times during his show when the Spaghetti Junction seamstress didn't appear quite so smart. Instead, they just looked, well... complicated. Better were the colourful fake fur stoles which doubled as collars on coats worn with floppy skirts and sexy knee-length dresses. Black tights, punky hair and matching hardcore soundtrack gave the collection a dark edge.

What could be lighter than the wispy black polka-dot dress shown by designer Valentino — all fluttering ruffles? Waterfall necklines, pie-crust frills and feathers (worn at the neck as scarves, twisted into the models' hair, and even peeping out from under rows of organza frills on a ballgown) added to the floaty feel. A little black chiffon dress

embroidered with rhinestones worn under a striped velvet blazer, a brown crepe gown teamed with a beaded jacket trimmed with sable, and a black lace and chiffon cocktail dress show the designer's skill for second-guessing his upmarket clients. At society gatherings Valentino is still the favoured couturier.

The models at the Nina Ricci show probably wondered why they were sharing the catwalk with a 12-piece lounge band and crooner. As the girls passed by he sang *Unforgettable*. Several of the gowns designed by Gérard Pipart were just that, including an elegant black column dress with sparkling navy lace bodice and cockleshell stole. Sadly, too many were just unforgettable.

At Scherrer it was the trappings of the old showgirl — long gloves and turbans — which set the scene. There were moments of glory such as feathered jackets and starburst beadwork but for the most part the collection felt like a tired revival. The glamour was old-fashioned.



CHANEL: This season nothing could match the restraint of Karl Lagerfeld. Photography by CHRIS MOORE/ANDREW THOMAS

Fashion journalist of the year



IAIN R. WEBB

At Ungaro, which has just been acquired by the Italian Ferragamo family business, change is in the air. The collection, shown at close-quarters in a hotel salon rather than on the giant catwalk at the Louvre, appeared less laboured than previous seasons — however, apart from a pair of fabulous Prince of Wales check trousers with a black lace hem and a chocolate lace dress, there were few show-stoppers. Gianfranco Ferré bowed out

at Christian Dior with a bang. For his last couture collection for the French house the designer indulged his fans with "every kind of excess". Among the vast ballgowns and seriously tailored suits were sari-style dresses and puffed taffeta coats.

THE showman in the pack, John Galiano, presented his second collection for the house of Givenchy. Theatricality be damned, models were dressed in revealing lace empire-line gowns and strictly tailored hourglass suits with dramatic shoulders and hobble hems. Galiano makes a magpie mix of fashion — suiting is cut into a dress, then belted with a lacquered obi. Grannie's needlepoint is stitched into sexy suits, while a fierce leopard coat covers the prettiest chiffon waterfall frilled dress, itself covered with hand-painted roses. Fashion with attitude.

Yves Saint Laurent's latest collection featured tried and tested Saint Laurent touches — a tuxedo suit, a little oriental influence, sizzling colourways,

cock feathers, sleek suits, sack dresses, draped evening dresses, and grown-up ballgowns in baby pink — perfectly great YSL looks, yet it somehow seemed out of step with the modern beat of couture.

In his programme notes Christian Lacroix said: "Couture is not so much a big show, more a little light music." If this is true, then Lacroix, who came to fame with his couture designs for the house of Patou in the 1980s, is playing the wrong tune. The soundtrack to his show featured the tunes of Mike Flowers, a Post-Modern pastiche of easy-listening MOR music which only further emphasised the lack of spontaneity and surprise in the designer's heavy-handed designs. Disappointing.

Nothing could lift the spirits any higher than Karl Lagerfeld's collection for the house of Chanel. Lagerfeld is the undisputed king of in-your-face show-offmanship, yet this season he favoured restraint: sleek lines and understatement verging on the monastic. Essential accessories in-

clude a top-to-toe bodysuit (worn under everything, including a full-length red chiffon evening dress), which looks like footless tights, and a natty beanie hat which comes in everything from purple stitched velvet to diaphanous black organza. Long coats, short jackets and straight-up-and-down dresses are key. Embroideries based on oriental lacquered screens in Coco Chanel's apartment, where the show was staged, were breathtaking.

The Chanel show was very civilised. There were little gold chairs and champagne. It was wonderful.

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T12/MPV

July 12 1996

Philip Howard



Translation needs both the old familiarity and the new accuracy

Lead us not into temptation — and so say all of us, miserable sinners. But what can this familiar phrase mean? In our age of soundbites, is it the most familiar sentence for English-speakers? "God save the Queen" and "We hold these truths to be self-evident" still make it into the Top Twenty Tags. But the Lord's Prayer, translated into English by William Tyndale and cribbed by the Authorised Version, still casts a global talismanic spell.

"Temptation" is an example of a phrase that is familiar without precision. It does not mean what it purports to mean. Swinburne wrote poetry does not stand close translation; so did Sappho; so do all poets. (Pedantic Pope and mawkish McGonagall are not true poets.)

But Harry Greenway, Rentaquote MP for Ealing North, must be historically, intellectually and linguistically challenged (if he is worth the challenge) when he declares that "The Lord's Prayer has stood for 2,000 years. The language is beautiful and clear. The word temptation is specific and understandable to all." And so is Frank Field MP when he complains about the latest proposal to rewrite the Lord's Prayer into what it may actually mean.

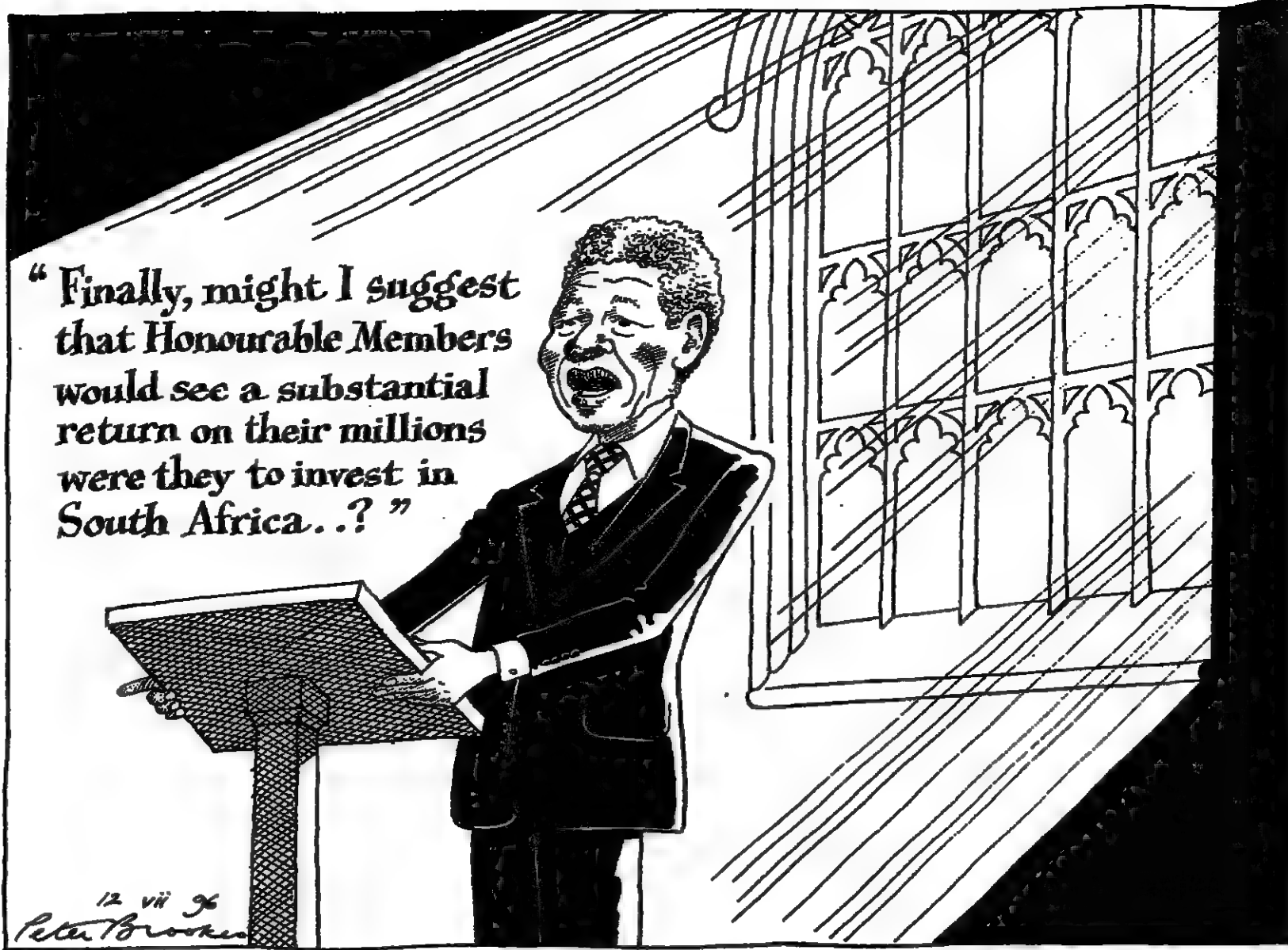
Christ did not recite the Lord's Prayer, 2,000 years ago, in Shakespeare-Jacobean formal English. Nor even in the Vulgate Latin of St Jerome or the Koine, the popular Greek in which St Matthew wrote it down. The word "temptation" has changed its meaning in the past four centuries, acquiring layers of Evangelical and other God-bothering connotation, of a generally sexual sort. The dialect of Aramaic which Jesus spoke, the Hebrew, the Latin *temptatio* and the Greek *peirasmos* are neutral in flavour, suggesting "trying" or "proving" by ordeal. This primary sense of testing is what was done to Christ in the Wilderness. The children of Israel "tempted" God in *Exodus*. God "tempted" Abraham. The word translated as "temptation" was extended to apply to the Roman persecution of the Christians. "Save us from the time of trial", or (as in *The New English Bible*) "And do not bring us to the test" is closer to what the Latin, Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic mean.

But they are neither as familiar nor as beautiful as the spell. And lead us not into temptation. For the Lord's Prayer is incantational poetry as well as familiar national rhetoric of orison. It has passed through the minds of 12 generations of English-speakers, so that it does not create a ripple today. Other of its spells, "hallowed be thy name" and "forgive us our trespasses", are meaningless or misleading to speakers of only modern English. The Scottish variant, "forgive us our debtors" gets away from the connotation of trespassing on the laird's land, but is equally anachronistic and misleading, as well as expressing a stereotypically un-Scottish sentiment of generosity over loans. The notion that the Lord might want to lead us into temptation is blasphemous as well as a mistranslation.

Language is used to convey emotion as well as precision. Traditional phrases such as the Lord's Prayer are part of our national poetic heritage. We know them in our sleep. There is a case for retaining such ancestral spells as "for now we see thee through a glass, darkly" for nostalgia and national team spirit. But scholars and ecclesiastics have a duty also continually to translate into our shifting language, to try to catch the rainbow of the original meaning.

Some poetry is untranslatable. When Joyce wrote, in *Finnegans Wake*: "Unda her brella mid piddle med puddle she ninnynoes nannynoes nancing by," the unda is the River Liffey at Dublin rippling down to the sea. Another translation is a young girl in the rain tripping along the wet road. The drunken me that I made a vow that I would collect everything I could get from what he says and does (only publicly of course — his private life is nothing to do with me; so far I have a budget of 33 full-size pages, and the end is not yet in sight).

But what was it that I saw and heard at the Tory conference that so traumatised me? It was Howard's speech on



Howard's greasy pole

The Home Secretary's policies may be mad or bad or both, but all that matters to him is his ambition

I must begin by saying that to want to be prime minister is not in itself a sign of incipient lunacy, though in fact almost all of those who yearn for the riband have some kind of mild or profound distortion of the brain, if any.

Well, would you? Think: a good few hours every day talking rubbish; another chunk of time pretending to admire colleagues whom you detest; curled lips from any decent passer-by, and a ludicrously small income. So I wouldn't do it, and you wouldn't do it, but Lilley would do it if he had the chance (he hasn't, thank goodness) and so would Portillo with his tongue hanging out, and so would Dorrell, and as for Mawhinney, I bet he even dreams about it, and poor old Heseltine started to try to do it when he was 3½ years old and hasn't succeeded yet. (Heseltine even recently tried to make a joke. I swear it — Heseltine truly did try to make a joke.)

No, I haven't forgotten one of these figures. How could I? When he is the man who makes his yearning for it so obvious that I could almost — almost — admire him. For that man wants that job, and wants it so profoundly, so passionately, so almost derangedly, that he would do almost anything — short of breaking the law, of course. But I am sure that he dreams of the job, he yearns for the job, his hands shake when he discusses the job — nay, when he sings in his bath. I swear he sings about getting the job.

You do not need me and a row of ladies crouched over their globes and muttering "I see a dark/fair/bald stranger" to guess the name of the man who wants the prize more than any one of his colleagues does (and that is a very considerable statement). Step forward, Michael Howard, QC.

It was only a year or two ago that I took the full measure of this man. The Conservative Party was at its annual gathering, and Howard was at the podium giving his fullest and most powerful speech. But what I saw and heard so sickened me that I made a vow that I would collect everything I could get from what he says and does (only publicly of course — his private life is nothing to do with me; so far I have a budget of 33 full-size pages, and the end is not yet in sight).

But what was it that I saw and heard at the Tory conference that so traumatised me? It was Howard's speech on

crime and such, with anything up to 1,500 Tories in the vast arena, and every sentence was more glutinous, more horrible, more odious, as he whipped up his docile listeners until they practically oozed pain for some poor devil. I remember his very pauses: they were perfectly placed — something to bring up the hate, before going on with his diatribe, and he knew that every one of his listeners was slaving for more, more, more. And he gave them more. (Which year was it when that ghastly boy piped up, in the discussion of crime, "Now I didn't, dear readers, come here

just to tell the world that I think Michael Howard is awful. What almost no one knows is that Howard, awful as he is, is also clever, and not just clever, but very clever indeed when it comes to his advancement. I am certain that he yearns to become prime minister, but even if he doesn't, he still has his dreadful speeches — dreadful not because he is a bad orator, which he certainly is not, but because of their dreadful content. Remember, if he yearns to become prime minister, he doesn't just wait for the good fairy, he works at it. And he not only works at it, he works at it in the way he — and no one else — does. Let me explain.

Howard understood and used very early his superb feeling for what many millions of ordinary people feel, when it comes to the matter of crime. To this day, whenever any poll of our people asks whether capital punishment should be reintroduced, an overwhelming number say yes. Of course, Howard is not so naïve as to join that group, but when the Tory conference is in session, he leaves the worst ones to demand hanging. (I remember, years ago, R.A. Butler, leaving the rostrum and the hall, literally shaking with the yells of the hangers and floggers bleeding.)

The trouble with an argument that has Howard in it is that in a very big slice of it, a very big slice indeed, he is manifestly right. Of course, he is right that there is crime in our country, some of it is terrible crime, crime bordering on incredible — take the 80-year-old lady who was thrown to the ground to have her face stamped on, not for money but for fun. And what about that immensely brave young woman who stood up and told a hushed gathering that she had been raped, and her rapist had not been caught?

But Howard does not deal with crime like most experts in these matters; he uses it like a flail, and clearly despises (or behaves as though he despises) those who do not agree, knowing that most of the country does agree. He has frequently been wrong, and had to apologise, and he has the very nasty habit of

pushing the blame onto others when the blame is manifestly his. Yet he bounces back again and again, popping up with White Papers, new untested ideas, pushing himself forward, looking for more and more ideas to shove in our faces whether we like it or not.

And a tiny but very significant item showed the lengths that he can go to: it was when he demanded new and bigger prisons, knowing perfectly well that there is no money for such things. Indeed, he knows that the prison service is facing a 13 per cent budget cut over the next three years. When the next bloodstained prison riot breaks out, will he have the nerve to say "I told you so?"

I am sure that he doesn't actually enjoy putting people behind bars; he is not a sadist, after all. But he throws bundles of criminals into jail, heedless of the important differences between one crook and another, until that admirable man Judge Stephen Tumin was forced

to say that Howard was "leading on the road to the concentration camp."

And then, even I double up with laughter when the judges, not one of them knowing his arse from his elbow, get shirty and shirty because it is they who should be adjudicating in this matter, not Howard. Of course the judges should be in charge, but every time they splutter and say so, they make bigger and bigger fools of themselves, while Howard, with practically the entire nation and most of the newspapers at his back, rubs his hands when he sees the glittering prize coming a step nearer.

And he never pauses for breath. His latest mad idea goes even further in the way of throwing criminals into prison and making sure that they will never "go straight" — that instead they will be greater criminals than they were when they went in. The former head of the Parole Review Committee, Lord Carlisle of Bucklow, says that Howard's policies are "utterly unrealistic". (Howard's idea is virtually to abolish parole, and remove any right to early release — these being the two best lifelines for an honest life after prison.)

He still hasn't finished. His next idea takes us back a century or two. When prisoners are coming to the end of their stretch, Howard wants their clothing to be blazoned with the words "community service" so that any passers-by or visitors will immediately realise that these are criminals. Perhaps Howard might go further: how about dangling the lesser criminals by their thumbs for hours on end? — very good practice for more crime the minute the criminals get out.

Then Howard insists that he, and he alone, should decide how long a "lifer" should serve. The members of the Home Affairs Committee demur; they say that the Home Secretary should lose his powers to decide the minimum time in jail for murderers, and to decide when they should be released. But the Home Office argued (I bet it did) that public confidence in criminal justice would be threatened if the Home Secretary were seen to be powerless to ensure that appropriate sentences are served for murder. Oh, yes? Howard has not yet abolished the courts; we hear at the judges (the bigger they come the louder I hear), but these are the first and the last bulwarks between the courts and chaos.

As for Howard and his dreams — oh, let him play with his toy, even if the toy is the key to No 10.

Bernard Levin

New look

A SHARP-NAILED rivalry has sprung up between two of New York's most prominent Englishwomen over the sovereignty of Manhattan's great social event of the year.

Liz Tilberis, editor of *Harpers Bazaar* magazine, has clinched the chairmanship of the Costume Institute Ball, an evening of spectacle and fantastic social pole-vaulting held every December at the Metropolitan Museum. She has succeeded her fellow countrywoman and glossy magazine editor, Anna Wintour of *Vogue*.

Miss Wintour is said to be

appalled by the news that the job has gone to a rival, Miss Tilberis is "pleased as punch", "cockatoo", "bristling with pleasure". A veteran social commentator, requesting anonymity, spoke yesterday of a "cat fight" between the two expats.

The Costume Institute Ball is the East Coast's answer to *Ladies' Day* at Ascot. Tickets cost \$1,000 a head and Manhattan dames diet for weeks in advance. Last year's ball was one of the most beabebled in its 35-year history and was considered Anna Wintour's great ascension into the social firmament.

The jolting choice of Miss Tilberis — which says much for the high standing of the British in New York at present — was made by the 1996 ball's sponsor, Christian Dior. She is a very different creature from Miss "Nuclear" Wintour, who is a more sinuous, sassy production: pointed-toe, cool, and wielding a scowl of fearful force. Miss Tilberis, who has borne a bout of bad health with good grace, is regarded as an informal soft-heart who is good with staff and has a good word for even the dullest partygoer.

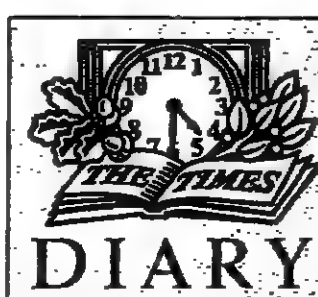
Michael Winner has been spotted about Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's annual summer arts festival at his country home, Sydmonton: "When I went last year I won £3,000 betting on the croquet," he says. "This year I backed my Ferrari into another car and did £3,000 worth of damage."

Berth control

AN URGENT inquiry has been launched into another collision — between the Royal Yacht *Britannia* and a ship once commanded by Prince Andrew. Last Wednesday in Portsmouth harbour, the minihunter *HMS Cottlemore* was trying to berth in foul weather when it collided with the

British naval ship.

Conversation at the post-production party of the new musical *Martin Guerre* in London this week concerned the startling codpieces worn by actors. "Enormous," spluttered one guest, "the



iously into the starboard bow of *Britannia*.

The Royal Family have enjoyed their fair share of navigational mishaps, but this time no royalty was on board. The crew of both ships are said by the Navy to have escaped injury.

Hasty repair work ensured that *Britannia* was shipshape for the Queen Mother's jaunt up the Solent on Friday, and the Navy is playing down the accident. "A minor incident in which no one was hurt. *HMS Cottlemore* passed too close to the Royal Yacht in very adverse weather conditions. The yacht was repainted, sharpish."

Conversation at the post-production party of the new musical *Martin Guerre* in London this week concerned the startling codpieces worn by actors. "Enormous," spluttered one guest, "the

Iain Glen, the show's bearded star, admitted they had been controversial. "Originally they were even bigger, but none of us could walk properly so we had them altered."

Tweed run

BRACING NEWS for all of those who thought that Gordonstoun School — for years a paradigm of brutalised Scots education — had softened up. The headmaster, Mark Pyper, is planning to run the original Marathon route, from Marathons to Athens, in a tweed suit and brogues. Kurt Hahn, the German founder of the school, hero to the Duke of Edinburgh and cold shower fetishist, would have approved.

Pyper was not fazed when a recent documentary about the educational school depicted pupils drinking, smoking and flirting; his mind is focused on Greece in October.

"Some of the pupils have asked me whether I sleep in my tweeds," said Pyper, whose wife, Jenny, will be covering the route in more conventional running kit. "I anticipate covering the distance at a brisk pace in about seven hours. My wife is aiming for four-and-a-half."



David Dwyer in his kit

George Orwell's Cold War

Helping the secret services was right, says Derwent May

Some old familiar hands were held up in horror yesterday, when it was revealed that George Orwell was recruited by the Foreign Office in 1949 to help with its anti-communist campaign. He was too ill to write anything for them himself — he was struggling with the proofs of his own ferocious anti-communist novel, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, and he died the following year — but he suggested the names of some writers who might help them with anti-communist propaganda, and also gave them the names of some "crypto-communists" who should not be touched with a bargepole.

Michael Foot said in *The Guardian* that he found the revelation "amazing" — "I'm very surprised he was dealing with the secret services in any form."

But why the surprise? In the first place, Michael Shelden's biography revealed five years ago that Orwell kept a notebook with a list of more than 100 possible "cryptics" in it. It included such names as Kingsley Martin, Sean O'Casey, Michael Redgrave and J.B. Priestley. Orwell did not believe that all the names really belonged there — he would play games with his friend Richard Rees "estimating to what lengths of treachery our favourite *bétes noirs* would go" — but he was a committed enemy of the British apologists for Stalin. He wrote in *Tribune* that the Labour MP Konni Zilliacus "and others like him are in effect the publicity agents of the USSR in this country, and when Soviet and British interests appear to them to clash, they will support the Soviet interest."

Animal Farm and *Nineteen Eighty-Four* were not just abstract political satires. They were, primarily, assaults on Stalin's Russia. That is the fact that the Left has been trying to pull a veil over for 50 years, and is still half-heartedly trying to hide.

As late as 1949, because of the war and in part because of the influence of left-wing writers, the full, hideous character of Stalin's regime was still poorly understood in the West. But that year, the first big impact on Western consciousness was made by a now almost forgotten book, Victor Kravchenko's *I Chose Freedom*. But that vivid account of Stalin's gulags was, I think, eclipsed by Orwell's fictional *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.

Orwell knew, and Orwell was serious about the ugliness and the threat of Soviet communism. A bizarre printing error weakened the end of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* in most British editions. At the end of that novel, Winston Smith finally capitulates in body and spirit to "Big Brother". He doodles an equation in the dust on a café table: 2 + 2 = 5. The fact that he does not finish it has suggested to some critics that Smith had not utterly succumbed to thought control. However, it is now established that Orwell wrote "2 + 2 = 5". He meant to indicate that Smith's independence of mind had been crushed totally by the state. He had no illusions about Stalin's methods.

Incidentally, Bernard Crick, Orwell's first biographer, has admitted that he had not noticed this misprint. Perhaps this was why he was able to suggest that the end of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is just "sardonic, black humour".

Another relevant side of Orwell was his intense love of aspects of England. He believed that "the privateness of English life" would help the country to resist "the process of being numbered, labelled, conscripted, 'co-ordinated'", and that "the gentleness, the hypocrisy, the thoughtlessness, the reverence for law and the hatred of uniforms will remain, along with the sweet puddings and the misty skies". It's been so wrong about any of those details?

Even today the attempt to soften our impression of Stalin's regime goes on. In *The Times Literary Supplement* recently, Robert Conquest gave a devastating account of how some American "revisionist" historians are trying to nibble away at the numbers of Stalin's victims, or at any rate to suggest that the impact of his murders and cruelties on the rest of the Russian people was not of great significance.

Core Vidal's recent memoirs, *Palmprint*, also offer the reader some marvels. The book is extremely entertaining — but it puts practically the entire blame for the Cold War on America, and represents Vidal's friend and relation President Kennedy as doing everything possible to start a war with Russia, so that he would go down in history as a great military leader. If you believe that, you can believe Truman Capote, as Vidal himself might say.

Yesterday's murmurings about Orwell's behaviour remind one of the outcry in Britain when the magazine *Encounter* was shown to have been financed by the CIA. That was always an absurd storm. A magazine article says what it says, and anyone can examine its arguments and disagree with it — it cannot be a covert performance. And the anti-communist thrust of the magazine was wholly honourable.

George Orwell may have been, in some sense, a socialist until the end of his life. Indeed some commentators on the Right, such as Maurice Cowling, have gone to the other extreme and portrayed him — most unconvincingly — as "the nastiest kind of class warrior". But what is certain is that his anti-communism was rock-solid. His willingness to work for the Foreign Office in 1949 was completely understandable and wholly right.



Anna and Liz who will be New York's four-year-olds?



CP 11/10/50



NO REFUGE

The law should not require Britain to harbour terrorists

Britain is to propose to the United Nations a new legal "instrument" to limit the 1951 Convention on Refugees. The need to alter international practice on political asylum was made clear by Malcolm Rifkind in Jeddah last week, in talks with the Saudi Government over the presence in Britain of the Saudi dissident, Muhammad al-Masari, who openly calls for the violent overthrow of the House of Saud. Mr Rifkind was doubtless relieved to be assured that the Masari case was "irrelevant" to Anglo-Saudi relations and would incur no Saudi retaliation. But that does not lessen the embarrassment of the shelter Dr Masari enjoys in Britain, or of London's current reputation as a haven for Islamist extremists.

To exclude future Masaris from protection under the 1951 Convention, John Major will seek UN endorsement for the proposition that no one who funds, incites or embraces terrorism merits refugee status. The convention, Britain maintains, was never intended to give safe haven to those plotting indiscriminate slaughter for political ends. When he put this plan to the G7 summit in Lyons, he found wide support. But the idea will be controversial in many other countries. What of those peoples fighting oppression, foreign occupation or state terrorism? And what constitutes terrorism? One man's terrorist is another's freedom fighter.

Anticipating this, Britain is not proposing a legally binding addition to the convention, which would inevitably open up to debate the generally admirable text adopted by a smaller, more coherent UN General Assembly in 1951. Instead, Britain is hoping for quick ratification of a "declaration", a non-binding instrument distinct from the convention. Even this, however, could easily

become mired in UN committees; it could take years to reach the required consensus.

More relevant to Britain's needs is the legislation now being proposed by Lord Lloyd's committee — particularly where this concerns the law on conspiracy. Amazingly, there is at present no law to prevent exiles living in Britain from plotting terrorism overseas. Britain's freedoms permit them to plan the violent overthrow of the governments — including often those friendly to the West — of their home countries. For the past year Whitehall officials have insisted that a myriad of international conventions, criminal laws and Home Office discretionary powers make it impossible for asylum-seekers to set up terrorist cells in this country. Now, finally, they admit that the law is deficient; only on conspiracy to commit murder can terrorist exiles be brought before British courts.

Inevitably, any proposed legislation resulting from the Lloyd recommendations will also be controversial. Britain has a long tradition of free speech, of sheltering dissidents and of equal treatment before the law, whether an individual is British or foreign. There will be questions about the right to call for the overthrow of dictatorial regimes, suspicion of new M15 and police powers and of a British kowtow to rich Arab clients. This is irrelevant. Terrorism is a world scourge. It can no more be defined than a terrorist can define a rat, but it is instinctively known and detested by all democracies. In the past, governments hesitated to punish those who seized aircraft to escape dictatorships, but eventually they realised that laws against hijacking allowed no exception. There can be no shelter for advocates of terrorism, either within Britain or overseas.

STRIKING OUT

The way to deal with striking monopolies is to attack monopoly

It may not exactly be a winter of discontent but for many, especially in London, it is likely to prove a summer of discomfort. The decision of the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union to join Aslef in strike action means more misery on the underground. The ongoing dispute within the Royal Mail seems likely to get more intense, straining difficulties to household and commercial post. Those who have made holiday arrangements via British Airways have had nervous weeks wondering whether its pilots would take industrial action. The strike, which the Thatcherite reforms of the 1980s seemed to have disposed of as a weapon, has made an unwelcome return.

Aware of the fury that this has produced, ministers have signalled their consideration of further legislation, either in the remainder of this Parliament or as part of the Conservative election platform. This would outlaw such disruption in those industries — water, power, transport and health — which are deemed essential to the public and possess a quasi-monopoly status. The Government apparently believes that besides providing much-needed relief, such a law would be electorally advantageous.

The Prime Minister would be wise to think twice about such an approach. Although potentially popular, it comes loaded with problems. First, there is a simple issue of freedom. The strike should never be the first tool deployed during industrial disputes, and it must be tightly regulated. Ultimately, however, as a last resort it is legitimate in the overwhelming majority of cases.

Secondly, defining what is an "essential" service threatens to be a tortuous exercise. There is a difference between those functions

that are indispensable and irreplaceable (the emergency services) and those which are important but only inconvenient when withdrawn (which both London Underground and the Post Office are). To lump the two categories together would be mistaken. Finally, there is a high probability that such a move would be rejected by either British judges or in the European courts. To pass a law against such a backdrop would smack of symbolism and posturing.

The real issue can be otherwise addressed. The way to deal with striking monopolies is to attack the monopoly, not the right to strike. More competition is the way to minimise public exposure to industrial blackmail. The contrast between the British Airways dispute and the other two is powerful. Any BA shutdown would do real commercial harm; consumers can switch to more reliable companies. Such a choice applies only to certain specialist services that the Post Office provides and hardly at all to London Transport.

If the Government is serious about the Post Office, then it requires a manifesto pledge to return to the privatisation agenda. If it truly wants to assist those who use the Tube, then it should commit itself to restructuring the whole organisation. After the experience acquired in breaking up rigid state bodies over the last 17 years, it should not be beyond the wit of Whitehall to lease out Underground lines to private companies on relatively short-term contracts with through-ticketing arrangements. Such proposals would have the immense virtue of not only limiting the chance of the cancellation of services to which consumers can find few alternatives; they would also enhance the prospect of higher quality of service.

LESSONS OF THE CHASSE

MPs should dig deeper into heritage fund management

The tangled story of trial and error which has determined the resting place of the Thomas à Becket chasse ends happily. Lord Thomson and his family have stood aside and allowed the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the Victoria and Albert Museum to match their bid and to keep the casket in Britain. The Thomsons have appreciated and wanted this extraordinary work for years. They could have been forgiven for thinking that Britain's art institutions had already wasted numerous opportunities to buy it. But, in an exceptionally gracious gesture, they yesterday invited the heritage funds to take their place.

Canadian selflessness has been matched by last-minute fund raising in Britain; a mess has been prevented from becoming a fiasco. But a good outcome does not answer all the questions posed by the early, botched attempts to retain the chasse at lower cost. The success this week of the National Gallery in obtaining Dürer's *St Jerome in the Wilderness* and the struggle to raise money for the Canova bust sought by the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, discussed by James Fenton in *The Times* yesterday, are just two cases which have raised the wider impact of National Lottery money on the art market. An uncertain mixture of market forces and preservation rules now determine what can stay in this country, what may leave, what the public can or cannot see and where. More clarity is required.

The Times is delighted by the success of its campaign to identify the chasse as quintessential to English heritage. We thought long and hard, however, before deploying our case. The pitfalls were obvious. Judging the

value of art works is notoriously uncertain. Discreet diplomacy will often be required to nudge buyers or sellers towards a deal. Donors do not always seek the limelight and purchase negotiations move rapidly back and forth between continents. Deadlines, public pressure and lottery windfalls risk price inflation. But, without public pressure it was not going to save the chasse for the nation.

In an uncertain market the holders of heritage funds cannot be asked to account for all their dealings as they happen. But they can and should be judged retrospectively. No mountains need be made of molehills: but the overall record of publicly-funded institutions requires proper accountability and scrutiny in the public interest. If the aim of bargaining between sellers, museums, public funds and auction houses is to preserve at least some of the nation's heritage, the nation's elected representatives should give careful scrutiny to what goes right or wrong.

Since its creation in 1992, the National Heritage Committee of the House of Commons has conducted a sharply focused inquiry on the establishment of the National Lottery. Its chairman, Gerald Kaufman, combines a fondness for art with a well-honed ability to prick pomposity, identify self-interest and cut through waffle. The most important result of this affair is that an inspirational work of art, symbol of one of English history's best-known events, should be preserved here in perpetuity. But the examination of a few distinguished witnesses might shed some useful light on the horse-trading that brought this result about.

Members' vote to raise their pay

From Mr David Alton, MP for Macclesfield (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, Your headline today (later editions), "MPs who rejected pay restraint", was misleading. I, for one, voted against both the 3 per cent increase and the 26 per cent increase. To print one division list, without the other, gives a distorted picture.

Many colleagues believe, as I do, that any increase in salary should have been put into effect on day one of the next Parliament. This would have countered the criticism that MPs were simply "looking after themselves".

Furthermore, salary increases should only have been agreed in the context of more fundamental and radical changes to the size of our legislature. A reduction of the number of members, by up to 250, would streamline the Commons, remove many of the pressures on facilities at Westminster, and lead to savings which could then be used to address the issue of remuneration.

Post Nolan, salaries should also have been considered against the background of MPs' outside interests and the proper constraints which should be placed on these.

The Government's 3 per cent proposal addressed none of these structural questions and would have led to the same unseemly debate in another 12 months. Not everyone who votes against it — and the later 26 per cent proposal — was voting against restraint.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID ALTON,
House of Commons,
July 11.

From Mrs Margaret A. Ferris

Sir, I teach in Buckinghamshire and have noted with interest that MPs have voted to take a one-third cut in their car mileage allowance; they will receive up to 47p per mile.

Teachers in this county, attending in-service training, receive a mileage allowance of 13.1p.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET A. FERRIS,
68 Oving Road, Whitchurch,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire,
July 11.

From Dr Peter Harvey

Sir, Can we now anticipate a 26 per cent rise in the intellectual, academic, logical and moral attributes of MPs? Or have the devourers of peanuts merely become devourers of cashews?

Yours sincerely,
PETER HARVEY,
134 Harley Street, W1,
July 10.

From Mr Brian North Lee

Sir, Is the "feel-good" factor here? For possible evidence consult any MP.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN NORTH LEE,
32 Barrowgate Road, Chiswick, W4,
July 11.

Bare necessities

From Mr Graham Sweet

Sir, On behalf of my fellow Canadians I should be pleased if you could let us know where we might buy a pint of beer for 55p back home ("A global guide to beer necessities", July 2). A beer store would probably sell a 12oz bottle for 55p and in a bar it would cost about £1.50 or nearly £2.50 for a pint.

On a more sober note, I am not qualified to comment on costs in Europe but I know that if a weekly supermarket bill for a family of four is £75 in Canada, it would be cheaper in the US and certainly not £145. Or are you, if you will excuse the expression, comparing apples with oranges, ie an Orkney supermarket with an exclusive New York food emporium?

Perhaps you had some exchange rate translation problems, as your correspondent must have had in the US when buying a £4 hamburger.

Yours truly,
G. P. SWEET,
Oak House,
6 Culver Road, Felpham,
Bognor Regis, West Sussex,
July 2.

From Mrs Cynthia Gillen

Sir, Do many of your readers regard a made-to-measure man's suit, boarding school fees, live-in nanny and a maid as "bare necessities"? I would have found the article much more informative if it had included dry-cleaning prices, hospital or doctor's fees and haircuts.

And what will I wear if my husband splurges on a made-to-measure suit? According to your article, only three pairs of knickers.

Yours sincerely,
CYNTHIA GILLEN,
Windyridge,
47 Northgate Avenue,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk,
July 2.

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Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 6NN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Tactical value of soldiers' sacrifice at Goose Green

From Lady Fieldhouse

Sir, I read with a degree of surprise and anger General Julian Thompson's remark about the attack against the Argentinians at Goose Green — "I should have said 'we're not going to do it'" (report, July 10).

The order was given by my late husband, Admiral Lord Fieldhouse, who was the overall Commander-in-Chief of the Falklands operation.

May I quote extracts from my husband's report, which appeared in the *London Gazette* of December 13, 1982, pertaining to the attack on Goose Green and Darwin.

On 26/27 May, 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines began to break out from the beachhead. The overall plan was to close up to the Port Stanley area as quickly as possible. There was, however, a significant Argentinian presence at Darwin and Goose Green. Although not on the direct route to Port Stanley, these troops posed a threat to the flank and to the beachhead. It was therefore decided that it was essential to neutralise the Argentinian presence there before the advance on Stanley could be fully developed.

By mid-afternoon on May 28, Darwin had been captured. The battle for Goose Green lasted many hours, frequently at very close quarters. Throughout the course of the battle, 10 officers and men of the 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment were killed, and one Royal Marines officer was also killed when his Scout helicopter was shot down by enemy aircraft.

By last light the battalion, supported by two further RAF Harrier raids, had surrounded the remaining garrison in the Goose Green Settlement where 112 civilians were held.

I am sure it is very easy for people to go on "second guessing", with hindsight, what should have been done or not done. But I believe that this devalues the sacrifice that so many of our men made.

I am sure that General Thompson

knows that every man in the Argentinian campaign was counted by my husband, who was the last person ever to throw men into battle unnecessarily.

I must add that I resent any implied suggestion that he did just that at Goose Green, particularly when he is not here to speak for himself.

Yours faithfully,
M. E. FIELDHOUSE.

Typical,
16 Ryde Place,
Lee on Solent, Hampshire,
July 10.

From Lieutenant-General Hew Pike

Sir, 2 Para's battle was characterised by extraordinary courage, high professional skill, a fierce determination to prevail — and by mistakes, which are the currency of war. The battalion's discipline, morale, training and confidence reflected those of its courageous Commanding Officer, H. Jones, whose leadership was inspirational before and during the capture of Darwin and Goose Green.

The battle had a powerful moral impact on the land campaign. Following setbacks at sea and around the bridgehead, the news of this tactical success against the odds instilled into all others in the landing force a confidence in ultimate victory.

I remember walking amongst the soldiers of 3 Para, which I then commanded, at Teal Inlet, after a gruelling advance over two days and nights, to tell them the news of hundreds of enemy soldiers defeated and surrendering. It was the moral turning point of the land campaign.

H. Jones, killed in action with 17 other soldiers of his battalion group, 11 of them officers and NCOs, had shown the way; their example made us unbeatable. No amount of histori-

cal hindsight or tactical analysis can ever change that.

Yours etc,
HEW PIKE,
Headquarters Land Command,
Erskine Barracks,
Wilton, Salisbury, Wiltshire,
July 10.

From Mr Timothy Jones

Sir, I knew Colonel H. Jones as well as any; not just as a brother but as a colleague, and I was well aware of both his strengths and his shortcomings. What fails entirely to come over in the programme (which I was shown a copy of last week) is anything about the man apart from a short temper.

It is not for me to comment on his plan of the battle nor really of his conduct as the CO, though one who less his subordinates run the battle for him is surely abrogating responsibility, and that would have been entirely against his nature. But the relevance of the Goose Green action as a whole, to those of us polishing our backsides 8,000 miles away, was clearly crucial. It demonstrated once and for all that the British would win in terms of both moral ascendancy and fighting capability; this was due to the performance of every man who took part in the battle, collectively and singly.

The one-sidedness of the programme is highlighted in its final lines; it states that the performance of ordinary soldiers had to make up for the shortcomings of their superiors. Yet it condemns a superior who was prepared to give his life for what he believed in.

Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY JONES,
3 Old Hospital Block, EC3N 4AB,
July 8.

No room at top for women lawyers

From the Chairwoman of the Association of Women Barristers

Sir, This association is deeply dissatisfied with the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee's report on judicial appointments procedures (Law, July 2). By endorsing the appointment of senior judges by invitation only, based on "secret soundings", the committee supports a system, whose obscure workings are widely suspected of a tendency to result in the appointors appointing one another. Its recommendation that comments on candidates should be attributed may alleviate, but cannot dispel, this suspicion.

It is a matter of public disquiet that only seven out of the 96 High Court judges in England and Wales are women. The consequences of this lack of women in the senior judiciary reverberate through every level of society, reinforcing the de facto status of women as less authoritative than men, and the perception of their experience and contribution as less valuable.

No substantial improvement in this state of affairs is foreseeable. High Court judges are appointed mainly from Queen's Counsel, of whom there are currently 932; only 60 of these (6 per cent) are women. In 1985 there were 538 QCs of whom only 17 (3 per cent) were women: the proportion of QCs who are female has thus doubled in ten years, but from such a tiny base that it is scarcely significant. Assuming the same rate of progress, the ranks of QCs will still be 88 per cent male in ten years' time.

Since QCs come from the practising Bar, it is to the Bar that we look for hope, but we do not find it. The explanation lies in the profoundly family-unfriendly nature of the Bar. The arrival of children to a woman barrister can disrupt her practice so severely that she leaves the Bar altogether, never to return.

Of the 2,116 women barristers currently in private practice (22 per cent of the practising Bar), 1,195 (56 per cent) were called to the Bar less than 10 years ago. Unless urgent steps are taken to make work practices at

the Bar more flexible and compatible with home and family life, I predict that a large proportion of those junior women will be forced to leave for family reasons long before they are eligible for silk.

It appears, therefore, that the senior judiciary will be the almost exclusive preserve of men for many years to come.

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPHINE HAYES,
Chairwoman,
The Association of Women Barristers,
3 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2,
July 2.

From Mr Alan Bates

Sir, The Lord Chancellor is known to be strongly opposed to discrimination and has done much to modernise and reform the legal profession. There is, however, no place for so-called "positive" discrimination in judicial appointments as these are rightly based on merit alone.

The reason why most judges are white, male and from public schools is not discrimination in their selection but that the selection pool is almost entirely devoid of anyone else.

The Bar is a naturally conservative creature. Yet if it is to maintain public confidence, provide the best possible service to the public and be the source of a multi-ethnic judiciary in which women hold key positions and which reflects the diversity of modern Britain, it must make it easier for the best people to qualify.

Entrance examinations to the Inns of Court should be set up to lead to automatic course fees and maintenance grants for all intending barristers, and the number of places should be limited more strictly. A Bar at which an elite drawn from a narrow social group serve is effectively one which serves the public its beer watered down.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BATES,
26 Woodfield Road,
Crawley, West Sussex,
July 1.

Question of degree

From Professor N. H. Keeble

Sir, In your leading article of July 1, "A question of degree", you say that the percentage increase in upper second and first class degrees between 1973 and 1993 provides "potentially alarming evidence of degree inflation". "Other things being equal", you argue, the proportion of high degrees should halve when student numbers have doubled.

But other things are not equal. In 1973 teaching formed a very minor part of a university academic's duties. There was little — if any — expectation that university staff should be trained teachers, and neither appointment nor promotion took any cognisance of teaching skills.

This situation has changed radically. Applicants for academic posts have now to demonstrate their lecturing abilities to appointing committees; new staff are now required to undertake training in teaching; senior colleagues conduct regular appraisals of staff in post; promotion applications have to include firm evidence of the capacity both to organise and to teach on undergraduate courses; and the higher education funding councils now engage and train assessors who regularly visit and report on the quality of educational provision in every university department.

The purpose of this great expendi-

ture of time, effort and public money — quite unknown a generation ago — has been to raise the standard of teaching. It is, then, not in the least "difficult to imagine how performance could have risen quite as sharply as the Higher Education Quality Council study has detected", as you allege. On the contrary, there would be cause for serious concern had degree results not improved.

The inference properly drawn from the council's report is not that standards have slipped but that teaching now has a far more significant part to play in university culture. Improving results should occasion congratulation to staff and students, not alarm.

Yours sincerely,
N. H. KEEBLE,
Dunraggan House,
Airthrey Road, Stirling.

From Dr V. Paul Marston

Sir, Your leading article expresses concern at the "devaluation" of degree standards through rising proportions of firsts, whilst your Good University Guide (May 17, 1996) uses the proportion of firsts awarded as one of ten equal indicators of a "good" university. Surely the latter must encourage just such devaluation?

Yours sincerely,
V. PAUL MARSTON,
143 Longmeanygate,
Preston, Lancashire.

World Service changes

From the Director General of the Save the Children Fund and others

Sir, There is considerable concern within overseas aid agencies over the proposed reorganisation of the BBC World Service (letters, June 19, 25) and the serious impact we fear it will have.

The changes proposed would effectively abolish the World Service as an entity and would subsume it into huge generic divisions. We fear that such divisions will be dominated by domestic British priorities and that in the process the World Service will lose two things which have made it so reputable and successful: its sensitivity to many different audiences and cultures, and the ability which goes with that — the ability to be there, wherever in the world, when stories are about to break.

Not only does this reorganisation threaten a situation whereby priorities (and budgets) will increasingly be set by the perceived interests of British listeners and viewers, but it also threatens something of fundamental importance to aid agencies' staff and the people with whom they work worldwide. This service — the distribution of accurate, objective information — is a crucial part of democracy and therefore the process of development which overseas aid agencies promote.

We therefore urge that this proposed reorganisation is strongly opposed, in the interests both of Britain and of people the world over.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE AARONSON,
Director General, Save the Children Fund,
JOHN BATTEN
(Action Aid),
DAVID BRYER
(Oxfam UK & Ireland),
WILL DAY
(Care),
JULIAN FILOCHOWSKI
(Cafod),
MICHAEL TAYLOR
(Christian Aid),
274 Banbury Road, Oxford,
July 9.

Coping with stammers

From Mr Charles Lister

Sir, My heart goes out to all stammerers (letter, July 9), having been one myself and having one in my family now. As a child I was always gulping, blushing, swallowing, gasping, mumbling and trying to change www-words.

But I never stammered when I spoke to our neighbouring farmer. This had to be in very broad Lancashire. By eight or nine I was bilingual; fluent in Lancashire; stammering in English. By stealth I managed somehow over the years to transfer my Lancashire voice production into English, and by 13 or 14 I had lost the stammer.

Yours etc,
CHARLES LISTER,
Leven Lodge, 30 Bilton Road,
Rugby, Warwickshire,
July 10.

Animal magic

From Mr John Wilson

Sir, Your report (July 9) on the "tying hypodermic syringe" mosquito to immunise us against malaria opens new vistas for preventative medicine. How about a genetically engineered dog whose bite protects against rabies?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WILSON,
17 Prince's Mews, W2,
July 8.

STILLS TENNESSEE WHISKEY

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